

Florida

Modern Fishing Travel
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WILDLIFE

JULY 1967

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

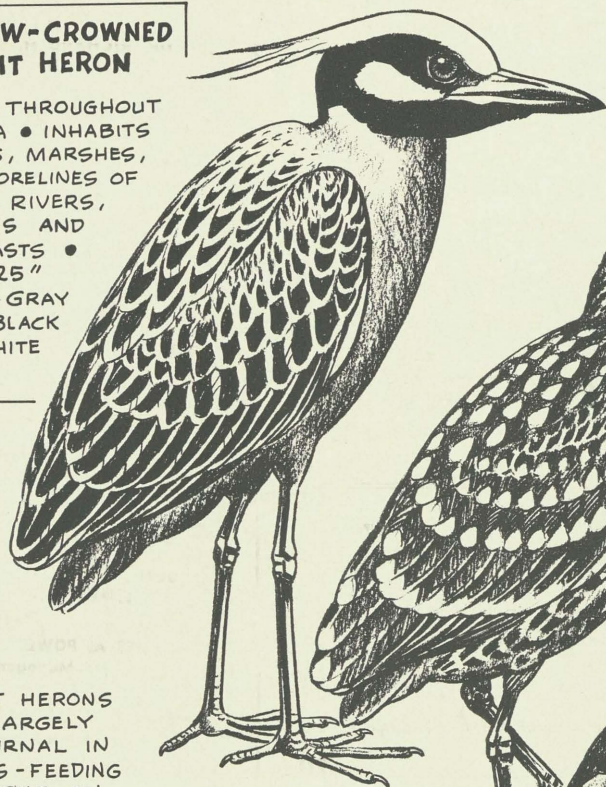
25 CENTS



Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

FOUND THROUGHOUT FLORIDA • INHABITS SWAMPS, MARSHES, AND SHORELINES OF LAKES, RIVERS, SPRINGS AND SEACOASTS • SIZE 25" ADULT - GRAY BODY, BLACK AND WHITE HEAD



NIGHT HERONS ARE LARGELY NOCTURNAL IN HABITS - FEEDING AT NIGHT ON SMALL, ROUGH FISH, CRAWFISH, FROGS, INSECTS AND MICE - RETURNING TO ROOST BY DAYLIGHT

FLORIDA - HOME OF MANY SHOWY MEMBERS OF THE HERON FAMILY - IS ALSO THE DWELLING PLACE OF OTHERS - WHICH BECAUSE OF THEIR RETIRING HABITS ARE LESS OFTEN OBSERVED

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON IMMATURE

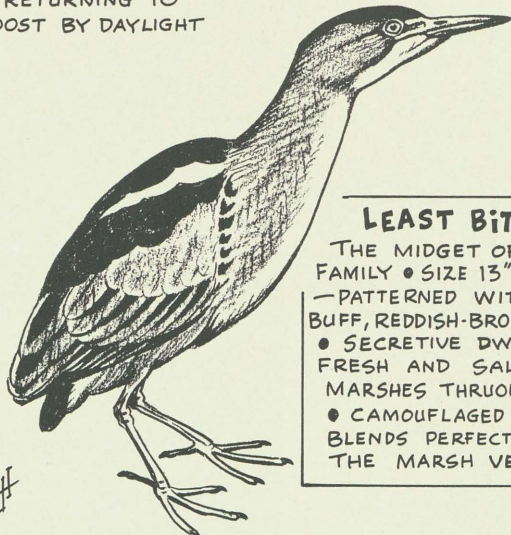


ADULT

RANGE AND HABITAT SAME AS YELLOW-CROWN
• SIZE 25" •
ADULT - WHITE FACE AND UNDERPARTS, BLACK BACK AND CROWN, GRAY WINGS
• IMMATURE - BROWN, STREAKED AND SPOTTED WITH WHITE • IMMATURE YELLOW-CROWN SIMILAR

LEAST BITTERN

THE MIDGET OF THE HERON FAMILY • SIZE 13" • COLORFUL - PATTERNED WITH BLACK, BUFF, REDDISH-BROWN & WHITE
• SECRETIVE DWELLER OF FRESH AND SALT WATER MARSHES THRUOUT FLORIDA
• CAMOUFLAGED FEATHERING BLENDS PERFECTLY INTO THE MARSH VEGETATION



LESSER KNOWN FLORIDA HERONS

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Florida WILDLIFE

JULY 1967

VOL. 21 NO. 2

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State of Florida

★

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The Cover

The Bobwhite Quail and Stumpknocker join together this month to welcome a brand new hunting and freshwater fishing year (see pages 20 and 32). The same color reproduction (in smaller size) will appear on the cover of the 1967-1968 Hunting & Fishing Regulations Summary.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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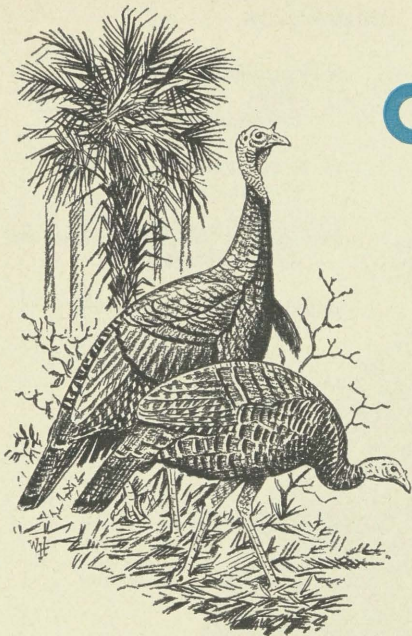
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CONSERVATION SCENE

Florida's Annual Conservation Program Launched

THE 11th Annual Conservation Awards Program has been launched in Florida, according to a release by the Florida Wildlife Federation. The program recognizes persons and organizations in the state who have made contributions to conservation in the fields of forestry, wildlife, soil and water, education, publishing and broadcasting, salt water resources and youth conservation work.

Nominations are submitted in each county through a county awards committee. These nominations are reviewed by a state committee and winners are selected to receive a Governor's Award, which will be presented by the Chief Executive at the Florida Wildlife Federation's annual banquet in September.

Where no county awards committee exists nominations may be submitted to any local club affiliated with the Federation or they may be sent directly to Don Southwell, Program Chairman, P. O. Box 854, Ormond Beach, Florida 32074.

County Awards are presented after the state winners are announced in September. State winners become eligible for National Achievement awards.

The Conservation Awards Program is conducted by the Florida

Conservation Fund through the Florida Wildlife Federation. Sponsored by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, it is intended to stimulate action for wise use of Florida's many natural resources—soils, minerals, forests, waters and wildlife.

Forestry Camping Fees

THE FLORIDA Board of Forestry has announced that fees are being charged for camping in certain areas in two state forests.

A charge of \$2.00 per day is the fee for camping sites on the Munson Recreation Area in the Blackwater River State Forest near Crestview, and the Silver Lake area in the Withlacoochee State Forest north of Brooksville. There is an additional charge of 25 cents per day for electricity where available.

Two camp areas have been established on Silver Lake in the Croom tract of the Withlacoochee Forest about 10 miles east of Brooksville.

Each area will have 40 sites to be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the sites are filled, the areas will be closed until a vacancy occurs.

The rest of the forest area will be open to camping, as in previous years, at no charge. Many of these areas have little or no development.

Those desiring additional information may direct their in-

quiries to W. F. Cowan, Forest Supervisor, Withlacoochee State Forest, Route 2, Box 244, Brooksville, Florida, or to their nearest Forest Service office.

New Audubon Sanctuaries

TWO NEW wildlife sanctuaries have been established in Collier County, according to an announcement by the Florida Audubon Society. Agreements have been signed with the Marco Island Development Corporation for the leasing of Station Key in Barfield Bay, to be known as Station Key Wildlife Sanctuary, and three keys in the San Marco River, to be called Marco Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

Examination of the islands, even after the bird nesting season, revealed Roseate spoonbills, attracted to the islands by plentiful marine foods, herons, egrets, ibises and a considerable number of Brown pelicans. The pelicans have disappeared from much of their original Gulf Coast habitat and, according to C. Russell Mason, executive director of the Florida Audubon Society, may become an endangered species of bird.

Remington Space Primers

IT'S JUST POSSIBLE that, sometime in the future, Remington primers will be heading for Venus and Mars.

This doesn't mean that the Remington Arms Company has developed an interplanetary export market. That, to say the least, would be a bit premature.

(Continued on page 34)

CORRECT ADDRESS NEEDED

Check your address imprint on the current issue of this magazine. If Zip Code does not appear, please send complete address soon as possible. Magazine mailings must have Zip Code Number for prompt delivery.

Honorary Chairman For National Wildlife Week

Dick Van Dyke, popular star of television and motion pictures, has agreed to serve as Honorary Chairman of National Wildlife Week, the annual nationwide conservation education campaign conducted by the National Wildlife Federation. He succeeds the late Walt Disney who had served in this capacity since 1956.

Van Dyke recently completed five seasons with the award-winning television series, "The Dick Van Dyke Show," and has contracted for 14 feature films over the next six years plus three television specials. Born in West Plains, Missouri, he grew up in Danville, Illinois, and entered the entertainment field as a radio announcer while serving with the U.S. Air Force. He has since starred in a wide variety of radio and television shows and in recent years has played leading roles in a number of hit movies, including two of Walt Disney's top features, "Mary Poppins" and "Lt. Robin Crusoe, U.S.N." He will be in England this summer for the filming of a new feature-length film.

A devoted husband and father, he is married to the former Marjorie Willett, his high school sweetheart from Danville. The couple are the proud parents of four children ranging in age from 16 to 5. The Van Dykes live in a large rambling Spanish style home in Encino, Calif., a residential area of the San Fernando Valley.

National Wildlife Week, sponsored since 1938 by the Federation and all its state affiliates, is a nationwide campaign which calls public attention to a major conservation issue. The 1968 observance will be centered on conservation education. ●

MOVING?

If you are planning to move, please send notification four weeks before changing address. Send your address label from a current issue, plus your NEW address. This will ensure continued subscription service.

The First of Mankind

Impact On Resources

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

MAN HAS LEFT his biography indelibly etched upon the many lands he has occupied. His successes and failures, his arrogance, his husbandry and degradation—all are apparent to those with perception to read from the rocks, rills and eroded hills. MAN, though tested in the crucible of uncounted time, has yet to find the fulcrum of his future. Is his progress a thing of brilliant achievement, or is it simply a portrayal of the blind leading the blind? The peasant whose husbandry was fruitful because of opportunity, or exceedingly poor because of imperial bureaucracy and oppression, has had more to do with destiny than the Napoleons and the Alexanders.

The many cross-currents of human history which ultimately led to the founding of the NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, and similar organizations, are far more complex and involved than a mere recitation of beginning dates and the resulting struggle for existence and expansion. It is not an exaggeration to state that the motives reach back into the mists of unrecorded history. The embryo was conceived when MAN began to walk on his hind legs.

For untold eons, survival was a stark element of life, severely circumscribed and controlled by surrounding environment. MAN was forced to conform to his surroundings, such as they were, of heat and cold, and of plenty and famine, or he would die. Survival of the fittest was the law of life in its most elemental form, and for these reasons populations increased very slowly.

With the passage of time and through many overlapping advancements and regressions, there was a slow transition: from hunter to herdsman, then to the agrarian with small surpluses to support the artisan and indulge in small luxuries, and finally to support the mercenary armies. But at best, life was precarious, fraught with violence, disease and famine.

As the tenets and philosophies of civilization advanced, man increased his demands upon the resources, and his capacity to convert them to desirable uses began to increase. This was nothing more than his predatory abilities developing to achieve personal and collective goals. He was beginning to break the bonds of environment, and in so doing, fought nature for the possession of her riches. The savage bowed to nature's laws, but civilized man, in reaching for his goal became hostile to nature.

The justification for these human desires has become so sacred and it has been so implanted in succeeding generations down through the ages, that man has lost his ability to stand apart and ponder, with any objectivity, the effects, either upon himself or the world's resources. Man's existence has become a complete justification in itself for any act he may commit, and he refuses to admit to any shortcomings or prejudices. This has been the cause of his downfall through various stages of his advancement. Each of his steps has been marked by a new civilization superior to that preceding, because of available raw materials and space in other parts of the globe.

(Continued on page 34)

FOUR MEMBERS of the technical staff of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Fisheries Division participated in the June meeting of The Hyacinth Control Society, held in Ft. Myers.

John W. Woods, Division Chief, and past president of the Society, represented the fish management profession in a panel discussion on "The Objectives and Limitations of Various Agencies in Aquatic Weed Control." Other interests represented were drainage, navigation and mosquito control.

Three technical papers were presented by fishery biologists: "Final Report on the Use of Concentrated Sulphuric Acid for Control of Elodea"—by Clayton Phillippy, Lakeland; "The Results of Selected Aquatic Herbicides on Elodea in South Florida"—by Forrest Ware, Lakeland; and "Effects of Water Hyacinth Control Through the Use of the Herbicide 2,4-D on Fish Populations in the Withlacoochee River," by Harold Moody, Leesburg.

James D. Gorman, Director of the Hillsborough County Mosquito Control Unit, Tampa, is president of the Society.

"GOVERNMENT financed housing in the form of hotels, motels and apartments" have been available to fish in Lake Hernando of the Tsala Apopka Chain for some months now, according to C. L. Phillippy, biologist who, along with Bob Betz and Bill Cordell, placed 550 concrete building blocks in seven-to-nine feet of water in a 20 x 100 foot "subdivision." The blocks were stacked two and three deep, flat sides down.

If the free rent doesn't create a response in a three-month period, Lake Hernando fish are slated for another handout—this time, food.

IN A RENOVATION of the canals of the Fort Pierce savannah in which 6.5 miles of canals were total-killed, Vernon Olgilvie and Bob Goodrick, biologists for the Everglades Region, eliminated a heavy population of roughfish, noted that bass reproduction had been fair, and saw that there were plenty of chain pickerel.

But the big shock was the total disappearance of 2,000 seven-to-eight inch channel catfish stocked in the fall of 1966.

Since the water is conducive to this fork-tailed favorite's well-being, the biologists have surmised that, sharp spines and all, they must have been "too available" to other predatory fish.

SIX 1½-acre ponds at the Oviedo Fish Hatchery, located in Seminole County, have been renovated and halved by the construction of earthen dams, according to a report by biologist Ed Zagar. The division of the existing ponds was accomplished in



order to create additional small ponds for use in conducting herbicide field research.

All-new water supply and drain systems were also installed which make it possible to drain and fill each pond separately, an important control factor in herbicide experiments.

There are 31 separate ponds now at the Oviedo facility, 19 of which are currently leased to the Chevron Chemical Company (Ortho) for use in herbicide research in Florida. The remainder of the ponds may be leased to the Pennsalt Chemical Company for similar use.

All of the Commission's fish production for stocking needs is conducted at its Richloam Hatchery, in Sumter County, and at Holt Hatchery, in Santa Rosa County. Additional fish are obtained from the Welaka Hatchery in Putnam County, which is operated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SIGNS OF THE times—Lake Deaton, between Leesburg and Wildwood on old Route 41—gradually slipping downhill. Unfertilized in the 1950's, with only a few threadfin shad present, the lake now has thousands of gizzard shad, both small and big—and declining fishing.

At one point (in any lake) where the teeter-totter is happily balanced between "unfertilized" and "fertilized," the situation favors gamefish. As over-fertilization increases, the ideal conditions for gamefish decrease and the conditions favorable to roughfish multiply.

Possibly contributing are nutrients from orange groves planted around the lake eight-to-ten years ago.

REPORTS THAT THE 108-mile Apalachicola River "ain't what she used to be" have prompted a Commission survey headed by Biologist Joe Blanchard. Sampling is underway with a sneak preview indicating that the numbers of gamefish in the river is down but the fish present are in good physical condition.

A REPRESENTATIVE of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was in Florida recently to collect fish for pesticide examination. Specimens were taken from the Apalachicola, St. Johns and St. Lucie Rivers. Analyses will be run on the fish to determine the insecticide levels in Florida fresh water fishes. Commission fishery biologists assisted in the collections. ●

Jumping Bass

FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

The really "black," black bass generally comes from dark water with markings so faint it may be claimed as a "new species"

BLACK BASS are not man eaters and there is a lot of quiet agreement that numerous other fishes can provide a somewhat more violent performance on the end of a line.

It's individual specimens that give a species its reputation and I'm sure the other sailfish wouldn't want to be represented by one I caught. It didn't jump, didn't run and came alongside like a carefully carved wooden dummy.

There are black bass that don't fight much and an occasional specimen that tears things up. Water temperature, fish condition and the manner of hooking are all factors but I doubt if you believe what I say next. If you told it to me I'd probably figure you were exaggerating a bit.

Anyway, I was fishing for bass in a shallow part of Lake George and doing fairly well with small to medium fish. I'd caught two 2-pounders and one that wouldn't have gone a pound when another strike on a surface lure surprised me into setting the hook a little harder than necessary, whereupon a bass of about a pound and a half came up on the surface and actually tail-walked for an estimated 25 feet before he dropped back in, after which he acted about like any other hooked bass and was landed.

The 25-foot guess is fairly accurate because he went in a half circle, starting on one side of the boat and ending up on the other. Undoubtedly he was helped by the lift of a tight line but he was far enough out that the lift was far from straight up. The single hooked lure had him on the lip but outside the jaw.

Tailwalking is simply swimming with only the tail in the water but is seldom executed by bass. Generally they don't make extremely high jumps but they can go for a long distance horizontally above the water. If they tried, I suppose they could jump high as well.

I once saw some bass jumping over a minnow seine and I'd say they went over it about two feet and hit the water about five feet from their takeoff point.

Some years ago one of the big tackle companies

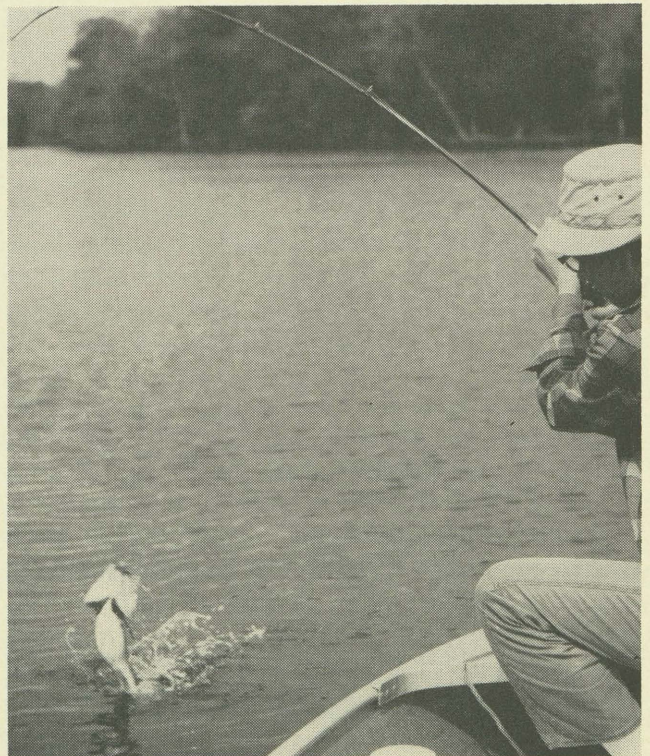
had a moving picture made in Cuba where bass were very thick and it showed them jumping in alarm after a boat passed them in shallow water. The man who took the pictures estimated that they went ten feet and I'd agree with him. The tops of the leaps were about three feet, I'd say, and they were definitely trying for distance instead of height.

This is very different from the performance of a bass trying to throw a lure. He jumps out of the water in order to shake his head more readily. Some other kinds of fish jump cleanly, possibly an instinctive move to escape what has captured them.

Bass in the 2-pound class seem to be the most acrobatic. Many fish that weigh five pounds or more appear unable or unwilling to actually clear the water and really big fish (seven pounds or more) frequently confine their above water exhibition to clumsy head shaking. It's hard to say what a 9-inch bass would be capable of if he weren't overpowered and overweighted by the tackle.

If the fish is big enough to do it heavy plugs are more likely to cause extensive jumping than small flies, lures or single, baited hooks. Apparently the

(Continued on next page)



During a typical bass jump, the tail hardly leaves the water. In this case the fish is more interested in shaking out the lure than getting some distance.

(Continued from preceding page)

jumping fish figures he can shake loose a plug and frequently he does. The restraint of the single hook is a vague thing and he sometimes doesn't even try to jump.

Generally shallow water is more conducive to jumping simply because there's no place to go but up. In deep water a bass will sometimes wear himself out digging until he's too tired to jump even if he wanted to.

None of our panfish can be expected to jump, including the sunfishes and the crappie or speckled perch, but when helped a little by an upward lift most of them are likely to flounder in such a way as to come mighty close to a true jump.

AROUND 5½ feet is a good compromise on length for a Florida plugcasting rod. Spinning has had quite an influence in lengthening the sticks and most spin-cast rods are a bit longer than we used to prefer for the turning reels.

Plugcasting accuracy suffers if you go too far in length. I can't operate a 6½-footer nearly as well as something a bit shorter but the very short rod of old is almost out of the picture except in real cheapies. A good baitcaster told me the other day that his old, 3½-foot rod just wasn't as good as something longer, wouldn't hold the line out of bonnets and was more work to cast with.

Casters who work in brush and cast under low lying branches generally prefer shorter rods but the reasons are a bit obscure—except that a short rod is handier to carry.

I'd say that for close quarters as in the mangrove creeks of Southwest Florida a soft rod is better than the stiff ones usually chosen. It's easy to flip a lure with a soft tip, even if you have no room for pasture gate swings. I believe getting under overhanging stuff is accomplished better through casting back-hand and sideswipe than by relying on a short rod to keep the toss low.

The spincast rod is generally softer simply because it works with lighter lures. My efforts with turning-spool reels, even the free-spoolers, have been disappointing with anything under a quarter ounce and three-eighths ounce feels a lot better, even if the rod's made for little stuff.

NOT BEING a metallurgist I have never had anything against a fishhook unless it was in my finger but I know this is a naive approach.

Salt water fishermen who have gone into the subject come up with strong opinions on hook metals and fresh water fishermen generally don't pay much attention.

A length of five to six feet is generally accepted as most practical for plugcasting rod, whether used in the open or in close quarters. This angler uses a stiff 6-footer to get distance from the beach; next step is a 2-handed surf rod.

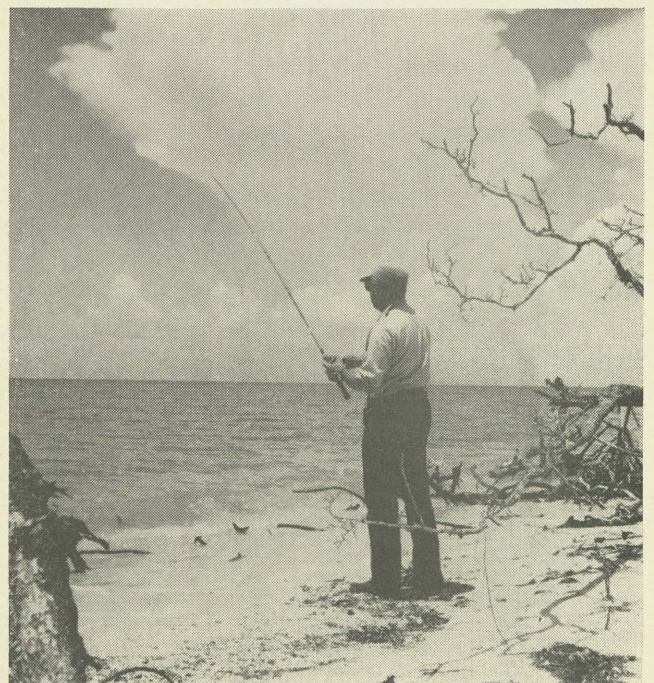
Stainless steel is generally pretty soft and bends easily but I understand some recent developments are a big improvement. "Z-nickel" we'll class as a form of stainless. Cadmium-plated hooks change color after exposure to the chemicals of salt water. Bronzed ones are only lightly protected. Well-tinned ones are first choice with the light tackle salt water addicts among my acquaintances. Nickel plate is generally too light to stay put.

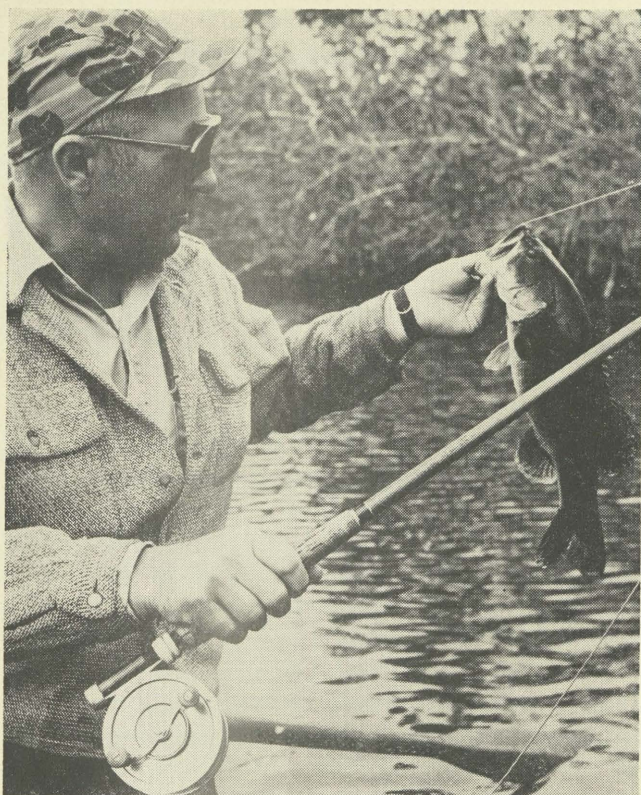
Fresh water fishermen can, under certain circumstances, prefer soft and easily bent hooks. When you're fishing from a bank and get hung up on the other side of a creek or canal it would be nice to simply get your lure back by a steady pull which would straighten the hook—and a slender shank without too much stiffness is a help. The same feature helps in deep water. But if the bend opens too easily you might lose a fish so you'd better check the bend against the strength of your line or leader and then decide just how much heave-ho you're going to give when you get a fish.

I can't tell much about hooks by looking at them, being easily confused between nickel and tinning. When you buy plugs you generally take what you get and keep quiet about it although trebles (and generally singles) are easily replaced. Probably regular replacement is more sensible than extensive shopping for something different.

Shiny hooks are part of the attraction on some lures and flies and when they're discolored some of the come-on is lost. The inexpensive, blued hooks have little resistance to rust or corrosion.

In some kinds of fishing the balance between bend and break is a delicate one. A sharp blow on a hard object will often leave you fishing very sportingly with no hook at all.





The really "black," black bass taken from dark water has characteristic largemouth markings but they are so faint on the dark specimen that some Florida visitors believe they found a new species. After the fish is out of water for awhile it may become lighter and often changes color.

I was once standing in a big tackle shop when a spluttering customer stormed in announcing that a very small fly hook had broken and lost a fish for him. After calming the injured one the proprietor quietly stated that all of the hooks he sold could be straightened completely without breaking but he tactfully explained that if a fly caster snaps a light hook against a rock on his backcast it might well come in two and the customer decided that was what had happened.

In fresh water trout fishing this happens regularly and often the caster doesn't even realize he's flicked his fly against anything.

We haven't found any durable hooks for big bug construction as the best ones don't seem to come with a humped shank (bent so it won't twist in the cork body). Very few people fish fly rod bugs in salt water and there's little demand for such a thing. Few salt water bugs are made by large companies and most folks who use bugs on salt water use ordinary bass numbers.

Hooks will last better if washed carefully in fresh water after salt water use. I have opened a box to find the barb of a hook has completely rusted away from one or two exposures to salt.

Hooks made from heavy wire will hold better once set because there's less tendency for them to enlarge the hole they entered. A small shank cuts

under less pressure. Big hooks generally have larger barbs and are harder to set. Hook-sharpening is something I always preach to others and avoid myself. Frequent hook inspection is the mark of a fishing expert and I maintain my amateur standing by seldom looking at a hook unless I have lost three good fish in succession.

Filing off most of the barb of a single-hooked lure makes fish releasing easy and doesn't damage them much. Many years ago there was a big push for barbless hook fishing and a lot of them were sold. They simply have a hump near the point rather than a spear-shaped sticker. In Florida, where most of our fishermen have blood in their eyes and ready freezers at home, I have never seen one of the things.

Such a hook will generally hold a fish if you keep a tight line and may sink in even better than conventional types.

If you want to make it tough, take off *all* of the barb of a conventional hook.

These little nicities probably wouldn't interest the fellow who inquired about explosive charges to be attached to hooks. His problem was how to land the fish after he blew its head off.

"RATTLESNAKE BASS" are the light-colored, plainly-marked fish that come from clear water and light-colored bottoms—generally. They're just Florida largemouths in lighter shades.

These markings seem to be on all bass but are very faint in the midnight types hauled from stained, black waters. Other bass I've caught were dark green with very little of the splotched markings when first caught.

Bass freshly taken from tannic acid stained waters are likely to have markings so ill-defined that they're a photographer's nightmare and I'm always trying to figure a way to get the light belly against a dark background and the black back against a light background so you can at least see there's a fish present.

The bronze shades commonly associated with smallmouths sometimes show up on largemouths too.

All of these colors of the same fish come from a lot of sources. If you'll take a very dark-colored bass and keep him in a live well for a while he's apt to change to the light, mottled hue associated with fish from light sandy bottoms and transparent water. I've never known a stringed or tanked fish to grow darker.

Joe Kenner, the St. Johns River guide, was telling me the other day that bass which live on crayfish or shrimp are likely to turn a reddish color after a short sojourn in a livebox. I've never seen that although I have seen them take on a very faint pink tinge. Joe says some of the fish he's brought in will get "almost as red as a red snapper" in captivity.

Marine Derby

BOATING

Aluminum boats featured at the second annual Derby ranged from new canoe models on up to large-size speed craft

By ELGIN WHITE



THE NATION'S leading boating writers and editors converged on beautiful Port Paradise back in May for the second annual Marine Aluminum Derby, and this shindig is getting to be a real blast.

The aluminum industry co-sponsored the affair, with the Florida Development Commission, and the two-pronged purpose was to show the writers the advantages of aluminum boats and, of course, the magnificence of Florida.

Both efforts scored a bull's-eye.

The 43 writers in attendance represented a cross-section of American talent. Some were newspaper columnists, others were representing the leading boating magazines, others wrote for trade journals. All got a good look at new aluminum boats from the little Grumman canoe all the way up to 23-footers.

Three boats that seemed to impress me the most, particularly when it came to ease of ride and handling, were the Chrysler, the Duracraft and the Feathercraft. Believe it or not, this is the first time I had ever driven an aluminum boat and the experience was revealing.

I had always imagined aluminum boats to be very noisy, particularly under a good head of steam in rough water. Not so in the ones I drove. The Chrysler, powered by Chrysler's new 105 h.p. outboard beauty, was heavily padded along the inside of the hull with a styro-foam material that deadened running noises almost completely. There was little vibration from the big motor on the transom, and the light-weight craft drew very little water. She handled like a dream, too.

The Duracraft rated the same accolades, as did the Feathercraft. These are beautiful boats, by the way, and it seemed to me that upkeep would be at a minimum. I wouldn't say upkeep would be as inexpensive as fiberglass, because I truly doubt it would, but it would be competitive enough to warrant any consideration by a serious boat buyer.

I liked the aluminum boats very much. They handled as easily as the glass jobs, easier than the wooden ones. I think most of the other writers there felt the same way. Didn't get a chance to try the canoe, but my cohort Charley Waterman did, and he was pretty much sold on it.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a predicted log boat race by the writers. Charley Waterman teamed with Grits Gresham from Natchitoches, Louisiana, to win the race with an amazing time of 4:21.5 seconds on a prediction of 4:20. Of course, knowing Charley, the win was pure luck. As a matter of fact, just as the gun sounded to start the race, Charley turned to Grits and said, "What was that?" Grits answered, "I think the race has started." At that time, they were completely turned away from the starting line.

But a win is a win, so the saying goes.

The visit to Port Paradise was my first since 1959, and it really is a beautiful spot for boaters or fishermen. Crystal River is one of the most beautiful in Florida, and the entire area is a lush, tropical paradise, just as the name implies.

The party got a splendid send-off on the final night. The clan gathered together with a cruise down the Homosassa River to the Crow's Nest, located at the entrance to the Homosassa on Tiger Tail Island. The Crow's Nest is the latest attraction built on the river by the imaginative Norris Cattle people, who are really developing Homosassa Springs into one of Florida's finest attractions. The Crow's Nest is a little restaurant right out at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico, and can only be reached by boat.

BACK IN May, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity of making one more trip on the Oklawaha River before it becomes part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal.

Some areas of the Oklawaha have been changed already as engineers begin straightening parts of the river for incorporation into the canal. But for the most part, the Oklawaha has not been changed too much. We got up to the beginning of the canal leading from the St. Johns, near Welaka, towards Rodman Dam, but couldn't go too far as the entrance was sealed. But they have already started landscaping the canal and frankly, it is going to be a pretty stretch of water.

It would be even more so if the engineers or those who are so responsible would see to it that

palm trees, flowers and the flora and fauna of the region are used to landscape the entire route. In some measure this would take away the stigma of the canal being just another big ditch.

THE THINGS THAT change when you don't see a place for awhile . . . several years ago we made a cruise through the St. Lucie Canal to Lake Okeechobee and on to Fort Myers.

Just finished another along the same route, complete tale of which will be told in upcoming issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* . . . but I was rather surprised about one thing . . . they had built two more locks on the Caloosahatchee River since my last trip there! Could it have been *that* long? Sure enough, when I first made a cruise across that waterway back in 1960, there was the lock on the St. Lucie canal and the lock at Moore Haven. Now there are two more down river from Moore Haven . . . and Lee Lawler of the Florida Board of Conservation Safety Boating Council tells me they are planning one more closer to Fort Myers! Tell you, though, there is no trouble at all going through these locks. The Corps of Engineer boys are more than delighted to open 'em up anytime from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. to let boatmen past.

WHILE DOWN AT the aluminum derby at Port Paradise, a lot of the boating writers got into several question and answer sessions, and all agreed that one of the more common problems our boating clan has is the proper placement and tilt to an outboard motor.

None of us had the precise answer, or at least we had it but the answers differed somewhat. However, Clem Koehler of Mercury motors sent some information that seemed to hit the nail on the head. To wit:

For want of a correct tilt pin setting on your outboard motor as much as one-quarter or more of your boat speed may be lost. Tilt pin adjustment is a vital but often misunderstood facet of outboarding.

Tiltability is the feature which permits successful installation of an outboard motor on a wide variety of boats with different transom angles and hull configurations. That is, by changing the setting of the tilt pin which fits through two holes in the clamp bracket, the outboard can be tilted fore and aft from a vertical axis.

To determine the correct tilt angle, set the tilt pin of the outboard motor so that the anti-cavitation plate is parallel with the boat's bottom. Do this while the boat's on your trailer—it is much easier then.

When you're in the water, check the performance of your boat to make sure you're at the right tilt pin setting. If tilt angle is correctly adjusted and the boat is properly loaded, a well designed boat will ride level and plane without porpoising on all but very rough water.

Usually your dealer will have set the motor up in the right pin hole. Don't be too anxious to change. If a boat is riding bow high or stern high, try to correct the problem by redistributing your load. If this doesn't work, consider changing to a different pin hole.

When the tilt pin is in a hole too far from the transom, the outboard motor's thrust tends to push the stern down and the bow up. Often the bow will then interfere with the operator's vision. This, to me, is the most common fault. The stern digs into the water, wasting your power, and the windage drag on the hull is increased enormously.

This also wastes power. Because the anti-cavitation
(Continued on next page)

The new Feathercraft models were part of the major attractions at the Marine Aluminum Derby held at Port Paradise.



(Continued from preceding page)

tion plate is being pulled at an angle through the water, unnecessary underwater drag and wave action will also result.

When the tilt pin is too close to the transom, the bow tends to dig in and the stern rides high. A large, wide bow wake and a big stern wake result. The boat, which was designed to plane, is forced to plow through the water. Since the prop is too far forward and is biting into semi-disturbed water, cavitation may result.

Funny, isn't it? . . . how the little things can add up to so much when it comes to seeking the right combination for boating pleasure!!!! Well, take heed, sailor!

SINCE THE OPENING of the new stretch of waterway between Venice and Boca Grande on the west coast, boating activity along the Suncoast has really been booming.

Matter of fact, I would say boating along the Florida west coast is about to come alongside that of the east coast. It seems to me more marinas and yacht basins have either been constructed or enlarged along the Sun Coast in recent years than in any other section of the state.

One of the more noticeable "renovations," so to speak, has been at the municipal yacht basin in St. Petersburg. I can recall not too many years ago when the St. Pete yacht basin was just about like any other . . . effective but sort of hum drum. But in the past two or three years of steady construction and improvements, the St. Petersburg Yacht Basin is one of the best in the country.



An aerial view of the St. Petersburg Municipal Marina. Many modern accommodations are available for the boating family; in the foreground is new Senior Citizens Center.

The modern million dollar facility now has berths for 375 boats and 66 of these slips are covered for boats up to 50' in length.

Conveniences include electric and telephone service, laundry, trash collection, showers, vending machines for quick snacks and lounges.

A service center provides fuel, ice, soft drinks, film, fishing tackle, bait and ships stores. Launching ramps, an outboard motor repair shop and adjacent parking areas for automobiles and trailers are added features.

The venerable St. Petersburg Yacht Club, headquarters for southwest Florida ocean racing fans, is just across the street from the modernized marina. At Yacht Club, berthed are such racing behemoths as "Big Toy," the world's largest (73') fiberglass racing yawl; the "Mareda," a 60' yawl, and "Avante," a 44' sloop. The "Mareda" and "Big Toy" are both designs of St. Petersburg's Charlie Morgan, Jr.

A major attraction about most Florida marinas is that they are located within a "hoot 'n holler" of downtown districts. The St. Petersburg marina is no different, as it is located right at the south end of St. Pete's main downtown section.

The improved facilities for outboarders has been the best shot in the arm, to my way of thinking. Now that small boaters can cruise all the way from Fernandina Beach on the upper Northeast coast, across Lake Okeechobee and on up to Tampa and St. Petersburg without going "outside," small boat traffic is going to pick up like a lone male in a girls' boarding school.

I HAVE HAD several inquiries of late about taking a summer run from Key West over to Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas.

This is a magnificent trip, but I would advise taking a good sized boat. It is 60 miles from Key West to Tortugas, and at times the open water can get pretty rough. There are plenty of adventuresome souls who take outboards to the Tortugas. I don't say outboards can't make it in grand style. They can. But you gotta be a rough rider, and your outboard still has to be large enough to be safe in open seas. There are no gas stops between, or at Dry Tortugas. There are only small islands and the Marquesas.

When you get to the Fort, there are no facilities on Tortugas for staying over, unless you plan to camp. There again you must have a boat large enough to handle some pretty good camping equipment. It is really a "pioneer" style run over there, but if you like high adventure on the high seas, you couldn't pick a better trip. Just be sure you know what you're doing. A neophyte could wind up in Cuba, and I understand that would create some problems. ●

The Softshell Turtle

By GENE SMITH

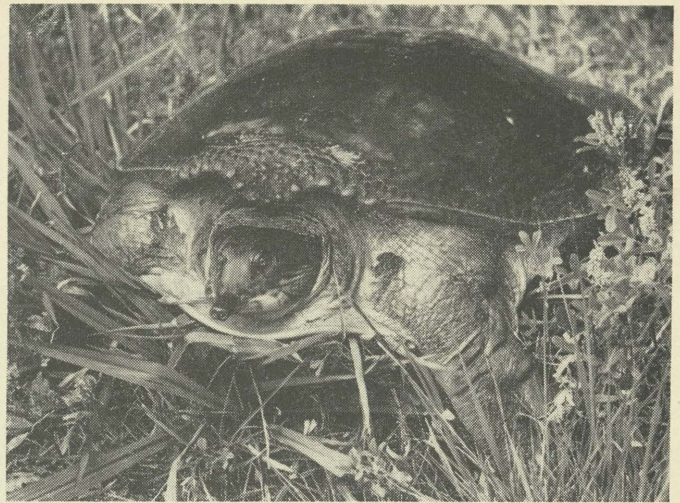
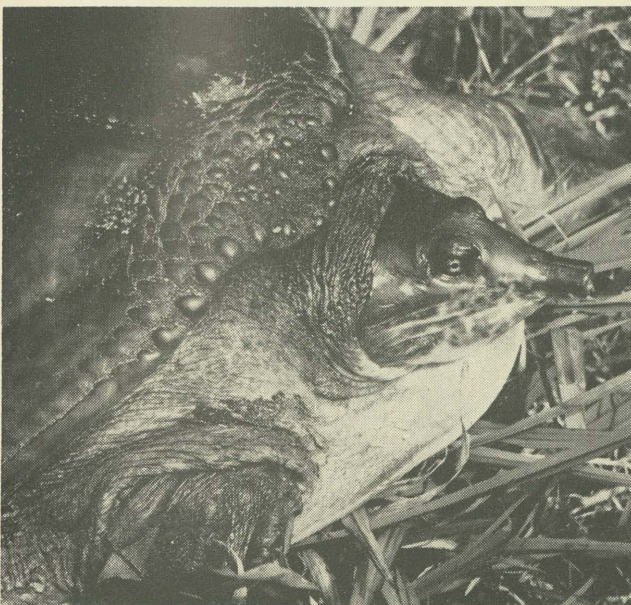
ONE OF THE STRANGER reptiles found in the Sunshine State is the Florida Softshell Turtle (*Trionyx ferox*), a harmless looking, leather-bound creature that is neither soft-shelled nor harmless. Beneath its flat soft back lies the same sort of bony shell possessed by the more conventionally constructed turtles. The inconspicuous mouth, with its fleshy lips, is actually armed with sharp bony blades that are capable of inflicting serious injury.

The Softshell's long neck—and an oddly shaped snout that can only be described as pig-like—might be considered an early version of the skindiver's snorkel. It allows the turtle to rest and breathe while lying on the bottom near the water's edge without exposing himself.

Although this upholstered pancake of a turtle is a lung breather it possesses a remarkable auxiliary system for taking oxygen directly from the water. The lining of the throat contains a complex capillary system through which dissolved oxygen is absorbed into the bloodstream as water is taken into the throat and expelled rhythmically. The action is akin to gill breathing and enables the Softshell turtle to remain under water for longer periods, as it is likely to do on colder days during the winter.

The Florida Softshell is the largest of this species in North America. (Females may weigh over 35 pounds while males are somewhat smaller.) It has been described by one authority as "the lake dweller" among the Softshells since it prefers lakes, ponds, canals and the still waters of roadside ditches. Softshells are found, however, in Florida's streams, including the larger springs. Its range covers the entire state except the Keys and the panhandle.

The Strange Florida Softshell



Photos By Wallace Hughes

The nostrils of the Softshell are at the tip of a long snout, enabling it to breathe by barely breaking the water surface.

In Northwest Florida there is a slightly different variety known as the Gulf Coast Softshell turtle (*Trionyx spinifer asper*), the southern representative of the Spiny Softshells. It has a number of small "spines," or cones, along the front of the shell.

The eggs of the Florida Softshell are round and white and about the size of ping pong balls. The female leaves her watery habitat and scoops out a depression in loose sand or other soil in which she deposits her eggs.

Young Softshells have large dark spots on their backs, bright orange lines on their heads and orange or yellowish rims around their shells. Adults are uniformly brown, brownish gray or olive with only vague suggestions of their juvenile spots.

While most Florida Softshell turtles are indeed flat, some deformed specimens have extremely humped, almost bell-shaped, backs.

Like most wild creatures, the Softshell prefers to be let alone. It is usually approachable when found on land, however. Caution should be exercised when inspecting one because its harmless appearance, as we mentioned, is deceiving. Softshells have been known to go on the offensive when disturbed, literally leaping off the ground to "strike" in the manner of a snake. It is just as likely that he will use his surprising speed and agility to wheel and retreat toward water—and safety.

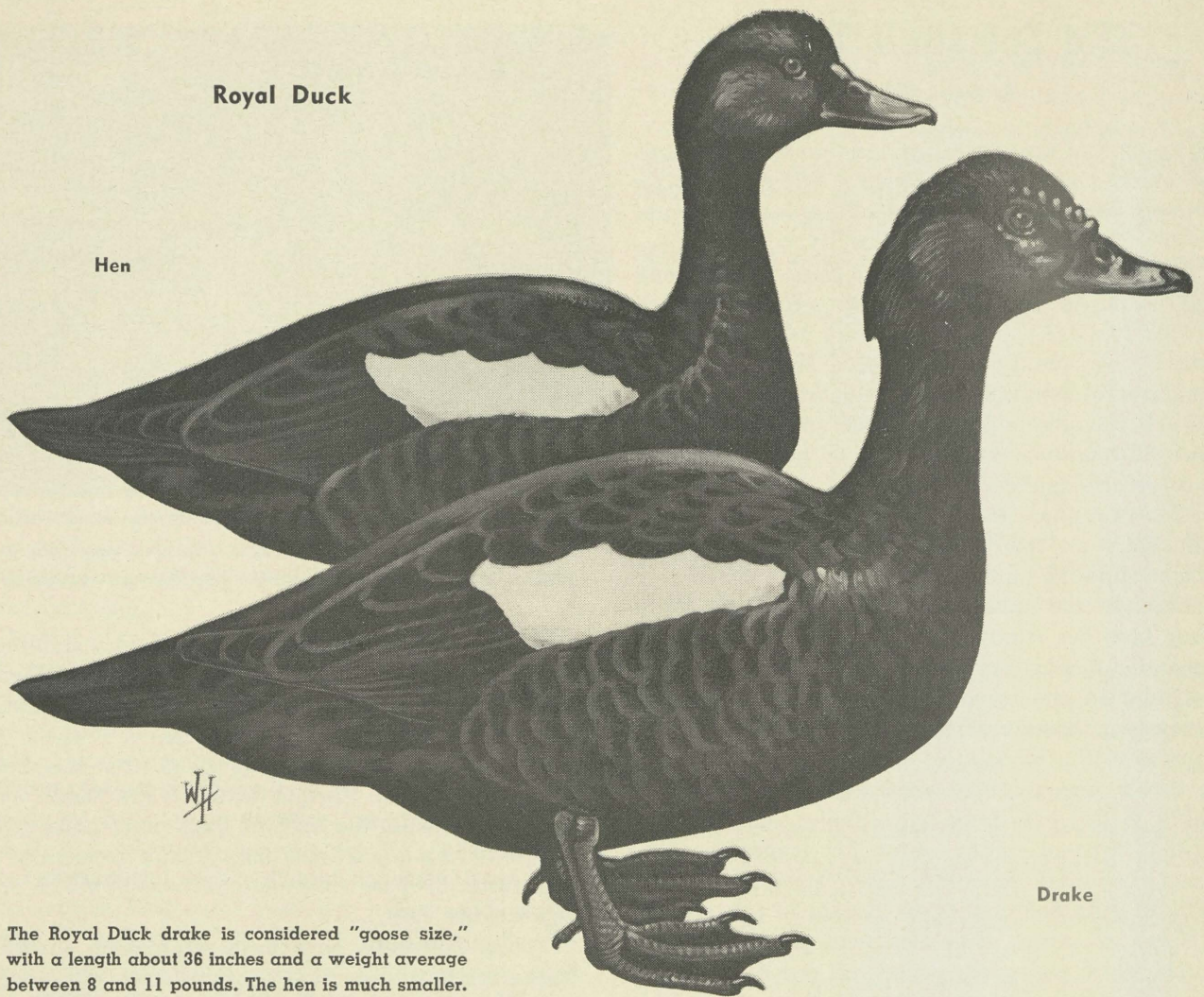
The flesh of softshell turtles is edible and much sought after by some for table use and for camp cooking.

He goes by many names—"softshell cooter," "leatherback" and "flapjack terrapin"—and is sometimes unpopular with fishermen. But the Florida Softshell Turtle seldom preys upon gamefishes. (He dines mostly on more easily caught crawfish, snails, worms, insects and even some vegetation.)

On one point, though, everyone who has seen a Softshell agrees: He is indeed among the strangest of Florida's 330-odd native cold-blooded animals. ●

Royal Duck

Hen

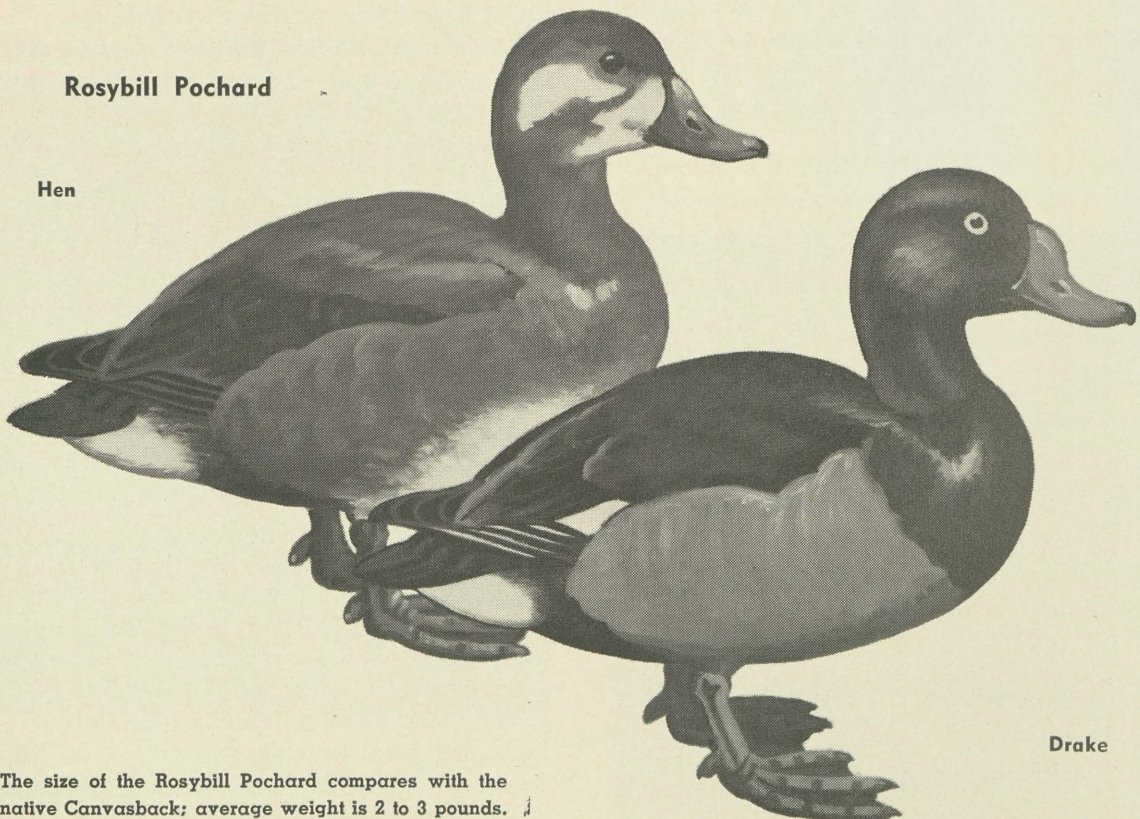


Drake

The Royal Duck drake is considered "goose size," with a length about 36 inches and a weight average between 8 and 11 pounds. The hen is much smaller.

Rosybill Pochard

Hen



Drake

The size of the Rosybill Pochard compares with the native Canvasback; average weight is 2 to 3 pounds.

variety is the key word in . . .

NEW DUCKS *For Florida*

By ART HUTT

OUR NATIVE DUCKS just aren't doing the job, says the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission waterfowl biologist Dale Crider.

Florida, with more marshland than any other state, lacks the variety and abundance of waterfowl to utilize these wetlands.

Only two duck species commonly nest in Florida: the Florida duck (a Florida exclusive) and the wood duck. Neither are abundant enough to even start to use the available habitat. The limiting factors on the population of these species may be physical, sociological or psychological but it is evident that water habitat is available and that the native ducks don't fill it up to a point of saturation. Florida marshlands are wasting as far as the waterfowl biologists are concerned.

Variety in Florida waterfowl is badly needed. The biologists point out that an individual pothole in the northern nesting grounds contains no dense population of any single species, but due to variety, the number of nesting ducks is great. Each species occupies a particular habitat niche.

So, between our lack of variety and our native ducks which, apparently, cannot be raised to a desired population level, the Commission's Wildlife Research Projects Office in Gainesville has been seeking out ducks to introduce into the state which will give variety enough to occupy these usable marshlands and which will provide more sport for Florida duck hunters despite a dwindling migratory supply.

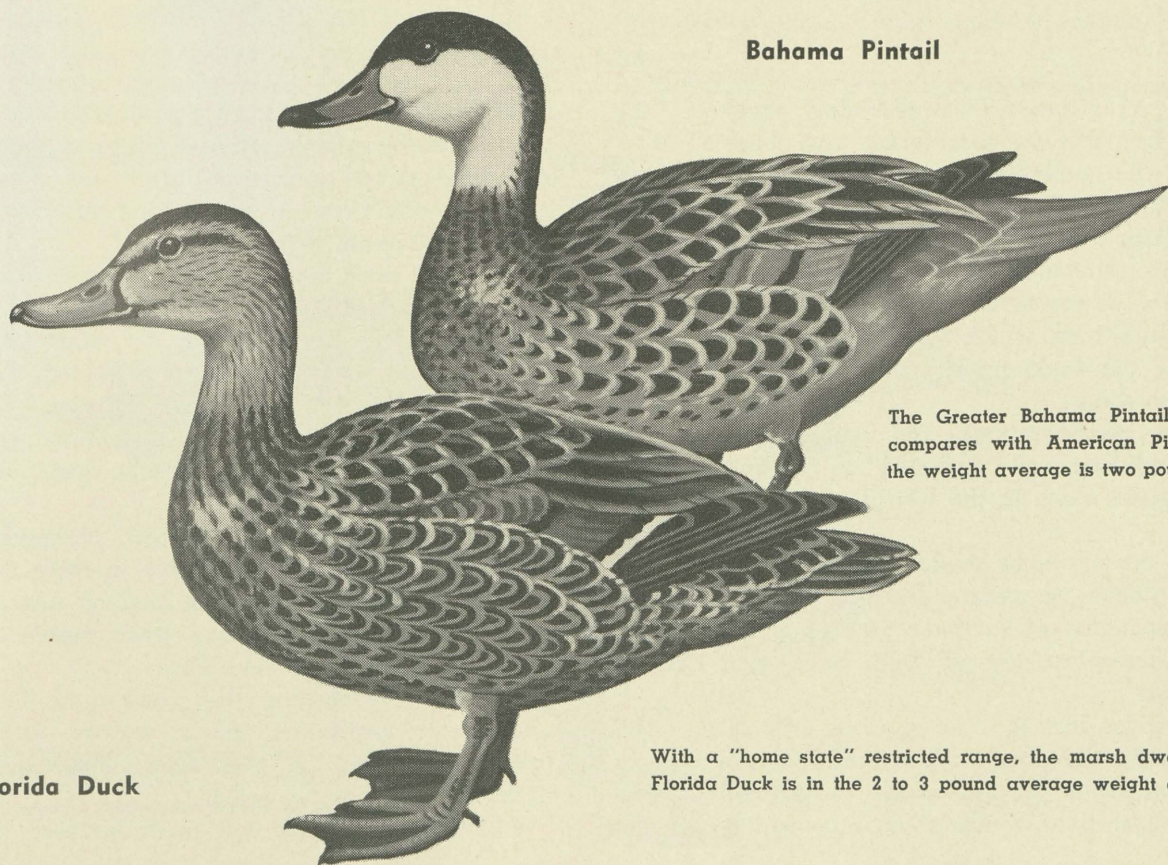
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Bahama Pintail

The Greater Bahama Pintail size compares with American Pintail; the weight average is two pounds.

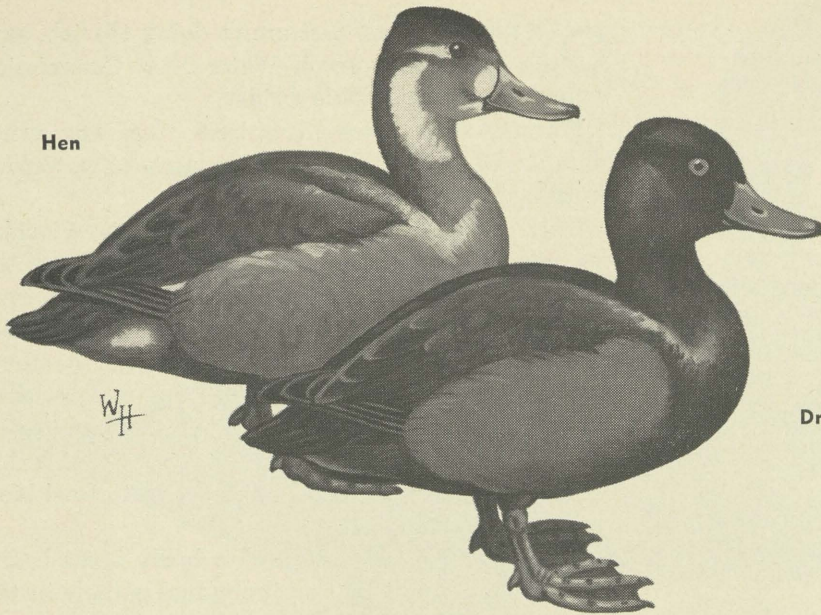
Florida Duck

With a "home state" restricted range, the marsh dwelling Florida Duck is in the 2 to 3 pound average weight class.



South American Pochard

Hen



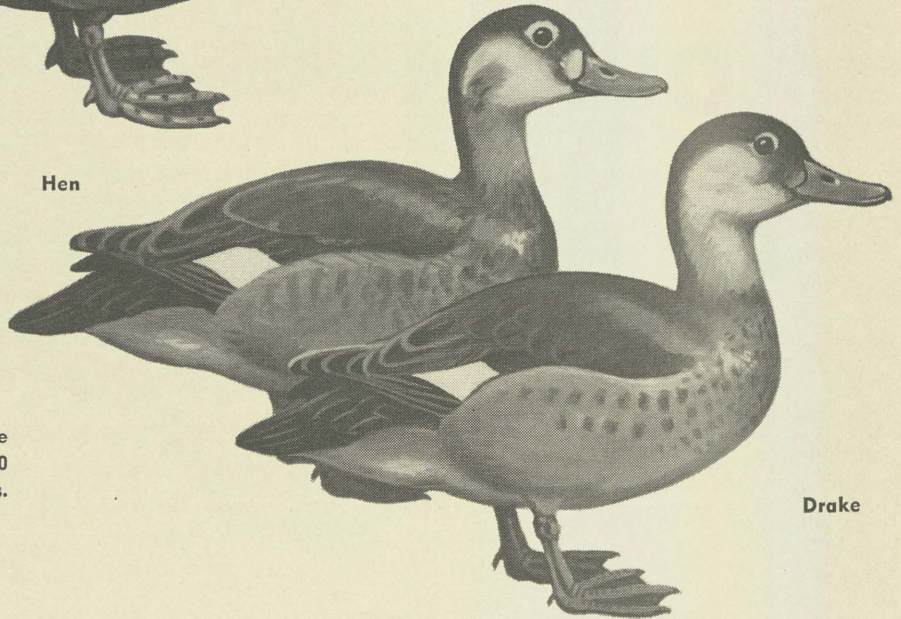
Drake

Similar in size to the American Redhead Duck, the South American Pochard's body length is 18 inches, with a weight range of 1½ to 2 pounds.

Brazilian Teal

The Brazilian Teal compares in size with the Green-winged Teal. The weight average is 10 to 14 ounces; length of the body 14 inches.

Hen



Drake

(Continued from preceding page)

The first step in considering any "exotic" is to review the available literature, looking for waterfowl which could thrive in Florida and fill in the gaps without creating additional problems. Selecting ducks which will get along with each other as well as with our native birds is important as is the selection of birds which will not cross breed. One or more of the ducks under consideration should like brackish water.

These considerations—and others—have led to five candidates—all "designed" to fill an otherwise unoccupied niche in the Florida duck-hunting picture.

The ducks being evaluated are the pato real (royal duck), the greater Bahama pintail, the rosy-billed pochard, the southern pochard and the ringed teal. These birds are all from South and Central America.

The royal duck is so far showing a lot of promise.

Actually, the royal duck is a wild muscovy, fairly common from Mexico south to Argentina. The goose-sized male weighs about nine pounds, the fe-

male about four. Color is an overall iridescent black interrupted by a large patch of white on each wing. The male sports prominent, bright-red, bead-like, fleshy growths between its eyes and bill, earning its name from this set of "crown jewels."

The royal duck adapts readily to most situations. In Venezuela, marshy river banks or swampy forests are preferred. It has the ability to withstand mammal predation, and is one of the few birds that can build a nest between palm tree fronds—and make it stick. Other nest sites include abandoned eagle or osprey nests, holes in trees, and man-made, elevated cavities.

Bobcat-sized talons adorn its feet. These unusual-in-a-duck claws allow it to roost in trees at night and through the day when not feeding. Also, a long tail for maneuvering among trees makes it less likely to end up with a bent bill.

Mainly a vegetarian, the royal duck feeds on underwater vegetation, seeds, acorns, and in a penned condition, has been seen consuming water hyacinths with obvious relish.

When buzzing back and forth between feeding

grounds, it travels about 60 feet off the ground and with only a moderate tail wind, it can move at 50 miles per hour.

Nests are usually lined with down and filled with 10 to 15 eggs. Incubation takes about five weeks. The bird is polygamous.

Collecting of the royal ducks for Florida experimentation makes a good article in itself but, in brief, when the Gulf Oil Company heard of the Commission's needs, they volunteered the services of their Venezuelan subsidiary, the Mene Grande Oil Company. John (Jake) Howland, Project Engineer for Mene Grande at San Tome, was put in charge of the project.

Howland enlisted the aid of missionaries and natives along the Orinoco River, a royal duck hotspot, aiming at capturing 100 of the big birds. By dugout canoe, by nets, by running down molting birds through swamps at night with flashlights, encountering one mishap after another, in three months the group had 97 birds gathered. Since their permit to import poultry into the United States was about to run out, they called it quits at that number.

After the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture carefully inspected the birds for disease, they were flown up to Miami to undergo a three-week quarantine.

Early in this year, the birds were distributed around the state to various research centers for additional surveillance. Twelve pairs, after a brief stay at Cypress Kneeland (near Palmdale), were set free in the Fisheating Creek Refuge area to see how they would fare on their own.

Venezuelan sportsmen hunt the royal duck in two ways. They either conceal themselves along the routes usually taken by these birds as they trade

back and forth between feeding grounds. Or they hunt it "turkey-like" as it roosts in trees. As table fare, the royal duck ranks high.

Of the four other exotics under consideration, the greater Bahama pintail from Argentina is a savannah-type nester, and a likely contender for using some of the vast Everglades (and other) acreage. The male is about the size of a mallard duck.

The rosy-billed pochard, from S. America, is a prolific breeder and very plentiful. It nests on rafts of reeds and is another duck which may fit perfectly into the Everglades picture.

The southern pochard selects marshy nest sites and is capable of carrying off two broods per year.

The ringed teal is a hole-nester under consideration, but has too recently arrived for any profound observations although they also show potential for filling up some of the unused space in Florida marshes.

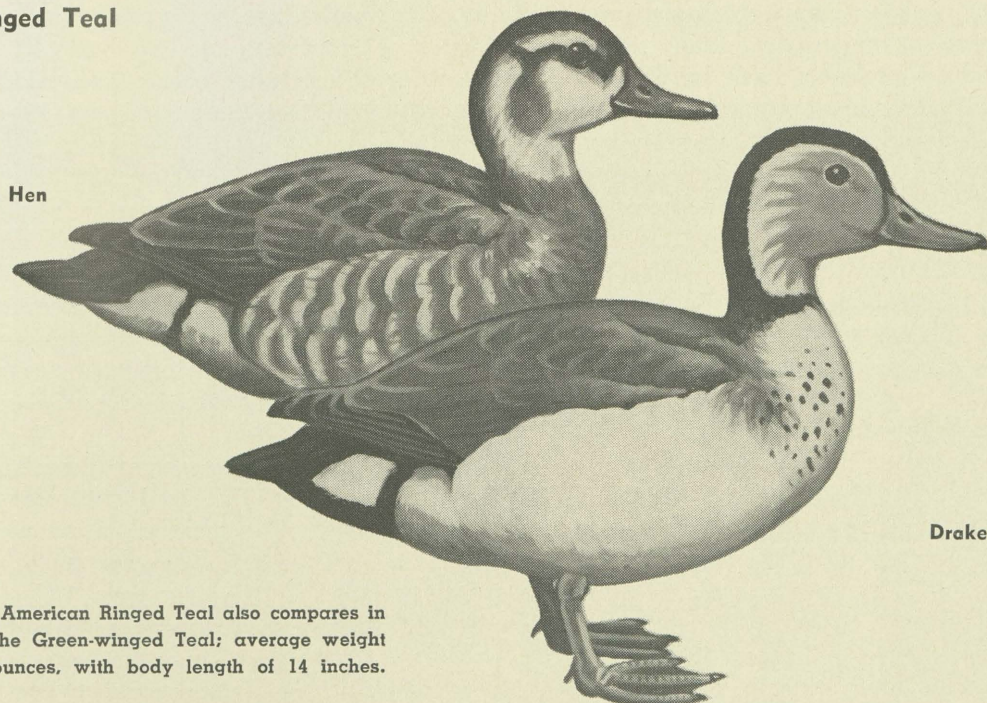
Much of the research on these ducks is being done at Caribbean Gardens in Naples. Aspiring and interested hunters can view them there.

Biologists at the Wildlife Research Projects office are not going out on a limb to make any rash predictions on how these ducks will solve our problems. It is much too early to grow eloquent. Research takes time and the birds must be carefully checked out not only to see if they can improve Florida's duck-hunting situation but also to see that they are not going to cause more harm than good. Working with exotics must necessarily be slow.

But the waterfowl specialists know that a single species, like the Florida duck, cannot be managed to take advantage of all the available habitat in Florida.

The answer lies in having a variety of species. ●

Ringed Teal



The South American Ringed Teal also compares in size with the Green-winged Teal; average weight 10 to 14 ounces, with body length of 14 inches.



Camping on both undeveloped and developed areas accounted for almost one-third of the outdoor recreation activities according to research studies made on the Ocala National Forest. Campers also enjoyed many other outdoor activities, especially hunting, fishing, boating and swimming.

a close look at outdoor
recreation on the
Ocala National Forest

How Much and What Kind?

By **GEORGE A. JAMES** and **ROBERT A. HARPER**
Forest Recreation Research Project, U.S. Forest Service

HAVE YOU EVER wondered, as you picnicked or camped at a popular recreation site on a busy day and observed the seemingly endless number of people streaming through the area, just how much and what kind of recreation use occurs during the entire year? Chances are good that you have thought about some of these things at one time or another. These same questions are foremost in the minds of recreation resource managers throughout the country. Reliable information concerning "how much" and "what kind" of use occurs on recreation sites and areas is basic to sound management—site development, maintenance, rehabilitation, and many other considerations.

Most use estimates of past years were based primarily on observation or experience. Many estimates were good, others probably have been misleading. Because of pyramiding use today—and even greater promised for tomorrow—we can no longer base management decisions on limited observation alone. We must obtain more reliable estimates!

It is neither practical nor desirable, because of high costs involved, to obtain a complete inventory of use by counting all visitors and recording all their activities. The answer lies in sampling. To do this, we first determine very accurately the amount and kind of use which occurs during a relatively few, randomly selected days during the season. If properly drawn, the sample then provides the necessary information for making sound estimates of use and activity. This article tells how we sampled a heavily used National Forest and some of the things learned about the area.

The Ocala National Forest, located in north-central Florida, was the area studied. The Forest

covers approximately 671 square miles; it contains more than 20,000 acres of lakes and ponds, over 150 miles of rivers, 14 developed sites (such as camping and picnicking areas), 162 recreation residence sites, and 5 permanent organization camps (such as Girl Scouts). Two high-speed highways, Florida 19 and 40, cut across the Forest and offer excellent access between the Forest and several nearby metropolitan areas. An internal network of approximately 500 miles of paved and graded roads provide additional access. Visitors may enter and leave the area through many exists.

Two sampling methods were used over a one-year period to estimate number of visitors and hours of recreation use by activity. These provided estimates of recreation on two basically different types of forest recreation areas; undeveloped areas, where dispersed activities such as hunting and fishing are major; and developed sites, where camping, swimming, and picnicking are the principal activities. One method, called double sampling, was used at three heavily developed sites (Alexander Springs, Mill Dam, and Juniper Springs) between May 15, 1963, and May 14, 1964. This method relies on developing a ratio between the desired information (visits, total recreation use, camping use, etc.) and traffic counts by simultaneously measuring both.

Pneumatic traffic counters were placed at the entrances of the three developed sites to tally total vehicle crossings. The number of people visiting the area and the use levels on recreational facilities were determined hourly during a 12-hour period on 20 randomly selected sampling days throughout the year. On days when someone was not on the site counting people and recording what they did,

the traffic counters alone provided the basis for use estimates.

The other method, a simple stratified random sampling, entailed interviewing visitors as they left the National Forest at temporary roadblocks. The sampling year extended from April 1, 1963, to March 31, 1964. Forest Service personnel interviewed someone from each household represented in each car that left during the sampling period to determine the amount and kind of recreational activity pursued.

Sampling periods varied in length from two to four hours at each roadblock, depending on expected flow of traffic. Nearly 3 million hours of labor would have been required to man roadblocks at all road exits, 24 hours each day during the entire year, to obtain a complete inventory. Instead, only 1,200 hours were spent at established roadblocks during the year. This is a very small sample, representing a sampling intensity of about one twenty-fifth of 1 percent. Sampling results were highly successful, resulting in close approximations of number of visitors and amount and kind of use.

Data from 881 completed questionnaires, plus independent estimates obtained at Alexander Springs, Mill Dam, and Juniper Springs, provided a great deal of information. We learned that almost 1½ million persons visited the Ocala National Forest during the 12-month period, and that they engaged in approximately 29 million hours of varied activities. Eighty-four percent (over 24 million hours) of this total use was devoted to some form of recreation, 11 percent to residential use, about 5 percent to commercial use, and 0.1 percent to other use.

It is, of course, highly informative to resource managers to know that 1½ million persons visited the Ocala National Forest and that over 24 million hours of recreation use occurred during the 12-month period. But this information alone does not

provide the recreation planner with what he needs to manage land resource most efficiently. He needs to divide this big chunk of use into its components and determine how much of each activity is involved, and when and where it occurred. Our sample also provided this information.

The first logical division was use by kind of site or area. Thirty-nine percent of all recreation use on the Ocala occurred on undeveloped areas; that is, on general forest areas containing little or no facility development, other than roads and trails. Thirty percent occurred on developed sites (such as Alexander Springs, where picnic tables, tent pads, fireplaces, etc., are provided). The remainder, 31 percent, occurred on recreation residence sites.

We also wanted to know the kind of activities pursued by the 1½ million visitors. First we examined the activity picture on developed sites (including Alexander Springs, Mill Dam, and Juniper Springs). A whopping 72 percent of the 7,264,000 hours of use was devoted to camping. Next in order was swimming with 11 percent, picnicking with 6 percent, miscellaneous uses with 6 percent, and boating and fishing with 5 percent.

The use pattern on undeveloped areas clearly shows the importance of hunting, fishing, camping and sightseeing. Total hours of recreation use on these areas was approximately 9,440,000 hours. Hunting accounted for 32 percent, camping and fishing with 25 percent each, sightseeing 12 percent, swimming 4 percent, picnicking 2 percent, and miscellaneous less than 1 percent. Recreation residence site use was heavy, accounting for nearly 7½ million hours.

With this knowledge we can better plan for the job ahead. Knowing how much and what kind of use occurs, we are in a position to make sound decisions concerning the preservation, protection, and development of forest recreation resources. ●

U.S. Forest Service Photos





Hunting Season

1967 - 1968

Northwest

Region

DEER & BEAR: November 18 through January 14, hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season, November 18 through January 14, hunting permitted every day. Spring Season, March 23 through April 7.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 18 through March 3, hunting permitted every day.

Central

Region

DEER & BEAR: November 11 through January 1, hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season, November 11 through January 1. Spring Season, from March 9 through March 24, in that portion of the Region south of State Road 50; from March 23 through April 7, in that portion north of State Road 50. Hunting permitted every day.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25; hunting permitted every day.

ARCHERY SEASON

September 16 through October 1; hunting permitted every day. In addition to Florida hunting license during early Archery Season, bow and arrow hunters must have \$5.00 Archery Permit, available at County Judge offices. The possession of firearms during early Archery Season is prohibited. Complete regulations may be obtained from Commission offices listed on page 3.

Bag Limits (For deer and turkey sex requirements, see General Regulations Summary)

	Daily Bag	Season Bag	Possession Limit
White-tailed Deer	2	3	3
Turkey — Fall	2	3	3
Spring	1	2	2
Squirrel, Grey	10		20
Squirrel, Fox	2		4
Quail	12		24
Bear	1	1	1
Wild Hog	1	2	2

SHOOTING HOURS — Native (resident) Game

From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset; except during the Spring Turkey Season, when shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon, only.

The color illustrated 1967-1968 Summary of Fresh Water Fishing and Hunting regulations will be available at County Judge offices, and the Commission offices listed on page 3. The 24-page summary contains general hunting and fishing regulations and information, bag limits, license fees, region map and hunting dates, plus colorful illustrations of Florida's native game animals, birds and fish.

General Summary



Native Game

Northeast Region

DEER & BEAR: November 11 through November 19 only, in Gilchrist County and that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339. November 11 through January 1, in all other counties; hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: No open season in Madison and Suwannee counties, or in that portion of Columbia County south of State Road 240 and west of State Road 47. Alachua County closed except during Spring Season. Fall Season from November 11 through January 1. Spring Season from March 23 through April 7. Hunting permitted every day.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25; hunting permitted every day.

WILD HOG: In that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339, November 11 through November 19, only. Alachua County and the remaining portion of Levy County, November 11 through January 1. Hunting permitted every day.

DEER & BEAR: November 11 through November 19 in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties. November 11 through January 1, in all other counties. Hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season from November 11 through January 1; hunting permitted every day. Spring Season, March 9 through March 24, south of State Road 50; March 23 through April 7, in Hernando County north of State Road 50.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25; hunting permitted every day.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS: The use of rifles is prohibited in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties except .22 rimfire rifles may be used other than for taking of deer and bear. The use of dogs in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties shall be limited to bird dogs, retrievers and slow trail hounds. The use of running hounds or any other dog that can reasonably be considered a dog usable for running deer is specifically prohibited.

Southern

Region

Everglades Region

DEER & BEAR: No open season on the Florida Keys of Monroe County. From November 11 through January 1, all other counties. Hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season, from November 11 through January 21. Spring Season from March 9 through March 24. Hunting permitted every day.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25, hunting permitted every day.

WILD HOG: Palm Beach County, from November 11 through January 1, hunting permitted every day.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Federal migratory game bird regulations and hunting dates for Marsh Hens (rails and gallinules), Mourning Dove, Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coot), Snipe and Woodcock, as set by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, during July and August, will be available as separate summary September 1, 1967.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Summaries of general hunting regulations and dates for Florida's Wildlife Management Areas, and detailed maps with complete regulations for individual Management Areas, will be available at the Tallahassee and Region offices of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, September 1, 1967.



The author's "fishing van" was altered to provide standup room under a fiberglass roof.

Modern Fishing Travel

FOR A WHILE, at least, I think I have satisfactory fishing trip transportation. Let's not place any bets because I've made some expensive mistakes in the past but this rig is pretty good. Let's check it out and then examine some others that might be as good or better for you.

We needed something that would pull a good-sized boat trailer, go something like 20,000 highway miles a year and provide reasonably comfortable living quarters for a week or two at a time. It had to be fairly compact for backwoods travel and we wanted something that would be easily handled in city traffic and fit smoothly into standard parking places (already we're compromising).

We started out with a Chevrolet van (that's the one with the engine housed between the front seats) with a 108-inch wheelbase. Ours is a three-quarter ton, although I'm sure a half-ton would have been satisfactory.

In order to stand up in one of these you need an extension to the top, either rigid or retractable. Most van campers have a fiberglass, metal, or some sort of combination roof that drops down when you're under way and can be pushed up when you stop for a night.

The idea of the retractable top, of course, is to give a low silhouette while on the road, cut down wind resistance and streamline appearance.

We had no beef with the up-and-down top for occasional use but luggage space has been our big problem on long trips (we're often away from home for weeks at a time) and when we saw a fiberglass top that stayed up and provided big storage areas at front and back we went for it. It and the rest of our camper were put together by Diversified Industries, Inc., Nokomis, Florida, P.O. Box 253. They use the trade name, "Cam-Pact" for this installation.

They installed insulation and wood paneling all the way around, put in house trailer type windows and roof ventilator, sink, butane cooking stove, chemical toilet and a floor furnace. There's a folding table at the rear and the dinette makes up into a couple of beds, each 30 inches wide. We could sleep another adult on a platform over the engine housing.

Water storage is in simple, plastic bottles with a hand pump. You can use either your 12-volt battery for the three ceiling lights or you can plug into 110-volt outlets in a campground or trailer park and use a reading lamp.



Pickup truck and camper with trailered boat is excellent unit for traveling fishermen.

By CHARLES WATERMAN

There are many available vehicles and materials that can be "combined" for desired fishing trip types of transportation

Now let's look at the truck itself. The Cam Pact folks had told us we needed nothing more than a half-ton model but in a wondrous mixup of orders we found ourselves truckless at a time when we should be rolling, and the only thing available that came close to our requirements was a $\frac{3}{4}$ -tonner. As usual with a substitute there were a lot of expensive things to be done but we did them for better or worse (worse for the bank account).

I will say though that the $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton rig doesn't ride hard as I feared it would and there's extra stiffness for rough country travel. Perhaps it's just as well we ended up with it. You soon get used to a gentle bobbing motion on the highway—a characteristic of these vans whether light or heavy.

On the other hand the substitute truck did not have the limited-slip differential which I think is a big help in anything that gets off the road, having buried myself a foot from the highway in Florida sand. The limited-slip differential goes under several trade names and I believe Chevrolet calls it "Posi-traction." It simply means that when one rear wheel has solid footing and the other doesn't the power goes to the one with the grip. Ordinary differ-

entials allow the free wheel to spin, no great problem unless you get in sandy or slippery spots.

Well, I ordered the differential dingus after getting the truck. It will cost too much that way but I think I need it and twice such a thing has saved me from a tow job. Once it saved us from spending an uncomfortable night in one of the world's more unpleasant corners.

Now we have a V-8 engine with a 3-speed manual transmission. I thought the eight would be good because we wanted air conditioning and the outfit is quite a gravel scratcher since the whole unit weighs slightly less than our 9-passenger family station wagon.

Why the manual transmission? No reason except economy and it's what was in the truck. Personally, I have concluded that an automatic is better for handling boat trailers.

For one thing, if you put a modern automatic in "park" it holds and I have long suspected the designers of American parking brakes are moonlighting from jobs in a toy factory. The other day another
(Continued on next page)



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friend of mine launched his car along with his boat when something busted in the Rube Goldberg parking thing.

Take a manual transmission, back part way down a steep ramp, hook onto a boat and then try to drag it out. Persons with three hands have a decided advantage here. Your clutch is in, you put the stick in "low" and your right foot is on the brake. You unfasten the emergency with one hand and try to engage the gears while gunning the motor because if you simply let 'er in with the motor idling she'll die. You'll probably kill the engine anyway and with a bit of bad luck you'll need waterwings.

One wonderful gadget is the manual throttle, carefully left off modern automobiles. I haven't installed one on our fish truck yet but I'm going to. Then I can have the engine turning over a little faster and when I let out the clutch I may make it up the ramp, even if I go with squalling rubber and sickening lurches. If I sound bitter about this, it's because I am. Nope, I think the automatic transmission is here to stay.

I've installed a bumper hitch on the front of this outfit so I can see what I'm doing when launching if the site isn't ideal. It leaves your rear wheels where they can get a grip rather than getting them down into what may be sloppy going. On concrete ramps this may not be too important.

As with some other vehicles I've used, this one pretty well hides the boat trailer when you're backing. On big, open ramps I can get by without ever unhooking because I don't go straight back anyway

but prefer to approach the water at an angle. That gives you a start before you catch full weight of the trailer as you pull out and makes braking simpler. We now use at least one wooden block under a truck wheel but few boatmen bother with that.

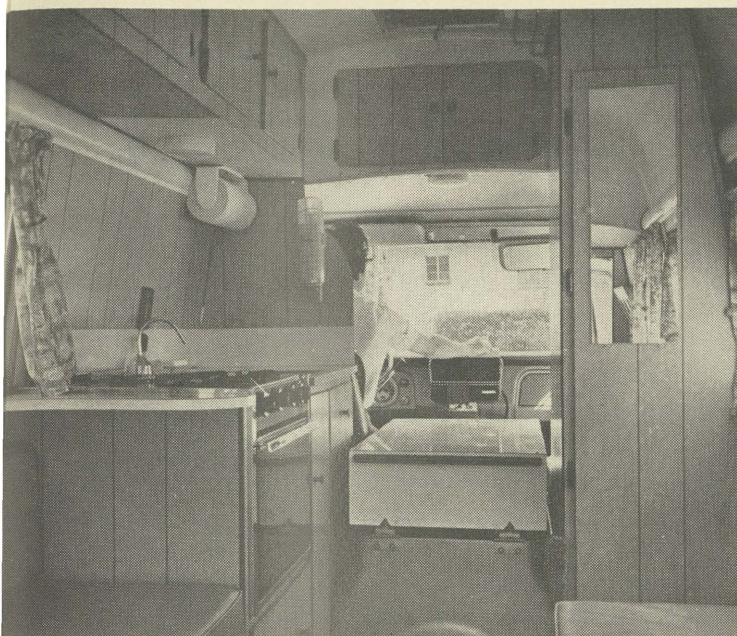
Chevrolet doesn't install air conditioning in vans at the factory, probably because there's no place to put it but we had one installed anyway. It's a wonderful thing when you're making long trips in hot weather although I seldom use it for brief runs.

I go for big tires. They will take a bit more gas on the highway but they'll keep you from getting stuck and partly deflated they'll take you across a sandy beach. The tires on our truck are 8:15 X 15.

Now we're going to carry two spares, both of them of mud and snow type. The idea is that one of them will serve in case a regular highway tire goes down and with two lug jobs we can be ready for muddy or snowy roads in a few minutes. We have tire chains if things get really rough.

Getting back to the living part of camping outfits, you'll find that ours has considerably less room inside than a big rig with cab-over sleeping. Ours came out a lot more expensive than we thought it would and the prices are comparable. Our only big advantage is more maneuverability and less air resistance as we taper at the top and aren't so wide to begin with.

Wanting as compact an outfit as possible we came very nearly getting a pickup truck and an Alaskan camper. The Alaskan is best known of several kinds that can be collapsed to little more than pickup cab height for travel and then extended to full stand-up



With the awning down and the boat launched, left, the fishing van is ready for living and angling. An inside view of the "van" looking forward, above, shows engine housing covered for use as bed or table. The seats in foreground (both sides) make up into 30-inch wide beds.

but if you'll stand on a stump all goes smoothly.

The camper is a good idea for anyone towing a boat. Another way of doing it is pulling a small house trailer or collapsible trailer-tent and using a boat on top of the car. We used to do this with an 18-foot trailer and hauled it over much of the U.S. before Hurricane Donna reduced it to uselessness. Of course you're limited as to the size of boat that will go on top of a car and we decided about 140 pounds is tops. I once had a very expensive boat-loading rig that worked but was a lot of trouble. The most popular loader now is a post type that attaches to the rear bumper and allows you to swing the boat into place.

When we go without a boat, or with one that collapses or folds, it is nice to have no house trailer to park but things would be a lot better in that field than when we first began trailer pulling. The camping boom has created so many campgrounds and trailer parks you sure don't have the problems of 15 years ago.

A big station wagon makes nice sleeping quarters for a couple of people and if you get a big enough luggage rack you can simply stop for the night, throw extra gear on top under a tarp and set up for sleeping. Our wagon is a 9-passenger Dodge and has a full-length luggage rack as it came from the factory. It is such a fancy rack, with adjustable bars, that I've been scared to actually investigate how much it cost installed. I think I'd rather not know.

A cartop boat can be lashed to it without any other carrier needed.

The first cartop racks I used were simply cross-bars set on suction cups with straps attached to the top gutters. If the suction cups held well they generally took the paint with them when removed. Then came the clamp type that fastened rigidly to the gutters.

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height for living. It does not have a cab-over sleeping compartment of course.

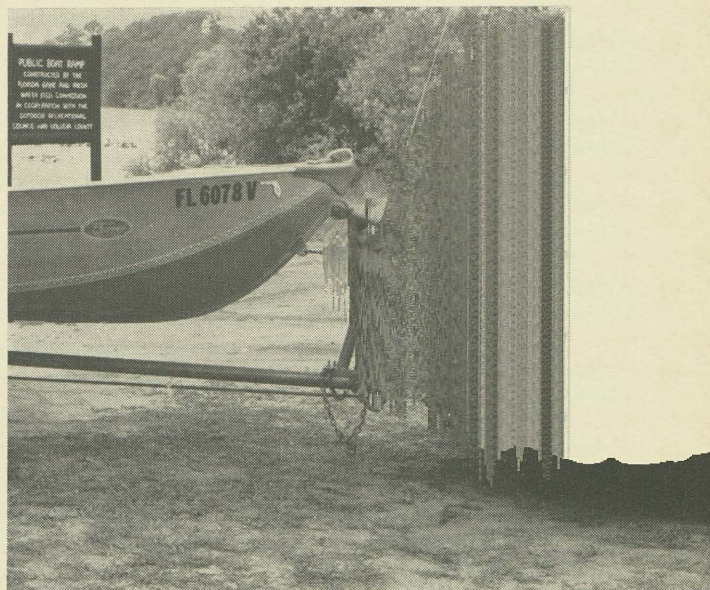
It has the advantage of being easily removable from the pickup whereas we're stuck with the whole outfit if we ever want to trade. We seem to have more storage space than in the Alaskan when it's collapsed. Our outfit is lighter, which may or may not be an advantage for others.

I see nothing wrong with the big, chassis-bolted campers or the cab-overs except great size and additional air resistance. Few fishermen will go as many miles as we do on the highway and we're accepting some inconvenience to keep weight and air resistance down. Perhaps we've gone too far but we're satisfied up to now.

There are several small tents that can be set up suddenly and we've found they're handy for storing extra gear when sleeping in any kind of camper as well as making a camp on their own when carried in car, boat, 4-wheel-driver or swamp buggy.

For a couple of years we've been using a Thermos Pop tent as an annex. It goes up in a hurry and, though we have the small model, it will house two citizens—or a ton of gear.

We have an awning that rolls up on the side of the camper and can be set up quickly by two although a rough task for a lone operator. When rolling it back into a neat package you will find that being seven and one-half feet tall is an advantage,



Boat launching is simplified with a front-end trailer hitch which enables the driver to see what he's doing, and also leaves the vehicle's rear wheels high and dry.

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Several years ago I was doing a lot of traveling with an International Scout 4-wheel-drive and bought the largest Sears luggage carrier available. It had suction cups and by the time I had it loaded the cups just wouldn't handle the job. I got three of those boat-type crossbars with the gutter clamps and bolted my canvas-covered luggage carrier to them; then things stayed put.

I finally got careless and left my luggage carrier on the Scout when it was empty, simply tying down the canvas with ropes. A corner of the canvas worked loose as I should have expected and whipped to shreds in the wind. I still have it and may get it rebuilt but it will be expensive. The Scout is a good fishing car but we found it a bit short-coupled for long trips. We crossed the continent five times with it. We had extra insulation installed to keep it quiet and even rigged up an arrangement for sleeping on board. It has stood up well in all sorts of rough going.

We had a GMC 4-wheel-drive carryall for a while. They've lowered the later models but that one stood very high. It had a tremendous amount of room in it and we set up a bed, high enough that all of our gear would go under it so we could simply park for the night without unloading.

They've improved them since but I didn't particularly like driving that one on the highway. With a 4-speed transmission it had enormous pulling power but through an error in the order (this is standard procedure with unusual vehicles) they sent me tires that were too small and that Gimmy would bury herself in an instant if you hit the gas too hard in a soft spot. I was so anxious to get going with my new truck that I accepted the little tires and cussed them for the entire time I kept the outfit.

Power we had but I guess it was just too much truck for long trips. Anyway, when we got rid of it we went to the other extreme and came up with a Scout.

Few fishermen will use 4-wheel-drive very often and a 4X camping outfit is something of a rarity. You couldn't get a van with that feature as far as I know but there have been rapid pickup improvements, especially in quieting the gear noise. They're a lot lower too. For real wilderness travel, small size can be an advantage as any hunter will tell you.

But this van we have should be longer. When the Big Three started building light cab-over vans (I figure they were goaded into it by foreign competition) they were principally compacts. Until 1967 I believe Dodge, Chevrolet and Ford all produced their vans with only 90-inch wheelbase and that became a favored camping unit. In 1967 both Dodge and Chevrolet have vans with 108-inch wheelbase—still shorter than most family cars. They don't extend the body much to the rear either.

There is no reason at all why our van couldn't be

still another two feet long and fit in a parking lot. Then you'd really have some room to live in. I suppose the camping market isn't enough to warrant such a truck and most vans are used for light hauling in close quarters where compactness is of primary importance.

With most pickup campers and "house cars" the hazard isn't clearance of the axles but overhang at the rear and I see some of the builders are giving that some special attention. In an early "house car" I found it almost impossible to so much as pull out of a service station without a resounding whack at the curb. The builders had thoughtfully installed sled-like steel runners near the stern. Our van doesn't have much overhang. We could tolerate a lot more if the interior could be longer.

With these campers you can spend the night at places you'd never put up a tent. Lots of travelers just drive off the highway for a piece and pull into a quiet spot on a country road. Others will park and spend the night on side streets of a small town with free police protection. For the most part these police are tolerant of such procedure although it's probably illegal much of the time if you want to get technical.

Most state-operated rest stops on main highways don't allow overnights for a number of reasons. For one thing it's hard enough to keep up with the litterbugging of folks who just stop for a brief rest. For another, it's a prime spot for a holdup.

But there are miles of free camping places along Florida roads and in Florida forests.

If you prefer commercialized campgrounds with snack bars and concrete swimming pools, they're building them as fast as they can. ●



Ready for a four month trip, this GMC carry-all had sleeping quarters mounted above a huge luggage area.

The "Master" Eye

MUZZLE FLASHES

There are various guns available for the hunter who must use the left shoulder when shooting

By EDMUND McLAURIN



ACCORDING TO Census Bureau statisticians, who seemingly enjoy compiling unusual facts and figures, there are more than a million licensed hunters who are naturally left handed.

Not included—but evident whenever a number of target shooters gather for shooting practice or competition—are additional uncounted individual trap, rifle and pistol shooters who fire at a variety of inanimate targets with weapons placed against left shoulder or held in left hand, instinctively or of necessity. Where military rifle training is carried out, instructors can tell you a surprising number of left handed persons come to firing lines.

To these sub-totals must be added those persons who normally do things right handed—including shooting a rifle or shotgun from right shoulder—but who are possessed with a dominant left eye. This last physical characteristic is no joke; serious aiming or crossfiring errors are likely where a shooter possesses a left "master" eye, but shoots from right shoulder with both eyes open. The aiming error can be particularly disastrous where the chosen weapon is a shotgun, because of introduced misalignment of eye sighting plane, in relation to gun barrel. Sadly, some shooters fire—and miss—for this reason, without ever knowing of it.

By way of explanation, our two eyes serve the brain by providing it with related pictures seen from slightly different viewpoints, but our brain gives dominance to the picture recorded by the stronger, "master" eye. (It is only in such specific needs as wide band of vision and judgment of distance or depth that the brain is democratic to both eyes.) So far as accurate shooting is concerned, it is the so-called "master" or dominant eye that gives the most direct and accurate sighting plane.

Uncontrolled dominance of one eye over the other can occur throughout one's life. Declining general health, eye injury or even a new eyeglass prescription can bring about a change. Sudden possession of a left "master" eye by a normally right handed person is not uncommon.

Knowing which of your two eyes is the "master" eye, and taking maximum advantage of that superior orb of vision, can make a big difference in your shooting and hunting success. It is easy to determine which eye is dominant.

Simply point your right index finger pistol fashion at some object, both eyes wide open. Then, still pointing at the object, and being careful not to move your finger or eyes from the original alignment, close one eye and note whether or not your finger is still in line with the object at which you are pointing. . . . Now, open the closed eye, and close the other one, still without moving your extended finger or shifting your line of sight. . . . During one of the tests, the extended finger will appear to "jump" off the object at which you are pointing; in the other, your finger will remain in fixed alignment. The eye that keeps your finger pointing at the object, without necessity of shifting the position of your finger or head, will be your "master" eye, on the side from which you should shoulder and shoot shotgun or rifle.

If still unconvinced, pick up your shotgun, rifle or pistol and aim it at some selected target with both eyes open. Then, maintaining your aim, close your left eye only. Does your weapon still point at its target? . . . Without shifting your eyes or shooting position, open your left eye and close your right. . . . The eye that keeps your sights and gun barrel aligned on target is your "master" eye.

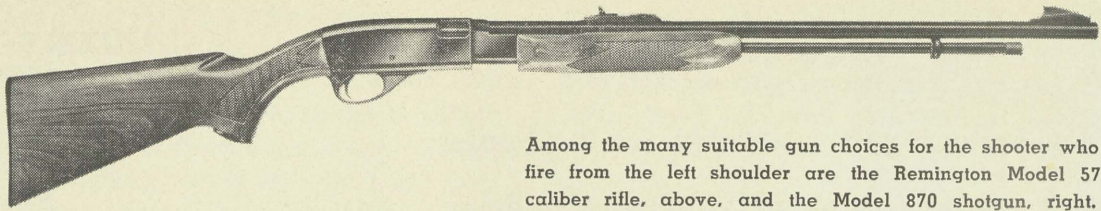
By now you should have reached the realization that you are introducing sighting plane errors if you shoot from right shoulder while possessing a dominant left aiming eye. If so, chances are that your shooting will show rapid improvement once you change weapon to left shoulder position. It will seem awkward at first, but the changeover can be successfully accomplished, and continued practice will make left shoulder firing feel perfectly natural, even if your weapon is a bolt-action rifle.

(The normally right handed person who must shoot from left shoulder because of bad right eye or a dominant left eye gains one advantage. In offhand shooting, he gets the benefit of better support from his right—usually stronger—arm. Offhand firing therefore becomes a bit more steady and less tiring.)

Fortunately, there are many ready-mades that are ideal for left handed shooters.

Finger-flick lever actions, like the Winchester Model 88, Marlin 336, Winchester Model 94, Marlin 62 and Savage 99 and the discontinued Winchester

(Continued on next page)



Among the many suitable gun choices for the shooter who must fire from the left shoulder are the Remington Model 572 .22 caliber rifle, above, and the Model 870 shotgun, right. Both guns have slide action, and make a fine, matched combination.

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Models 95, 71 and 65 center fires have long served southpaws well in the taking of big game as well as animals of varmint classification.

Especially recommended, for port and starboard shooter alike, are the Winchester Model 88, the Savage Model 99 and the Marlin 336. All three are popular and have staunch advocates. In a number of field performance ways, the named models outclass even the Winchester Model 94, the perennial favorite lever action, but not always the best performer.

The Model 88 has a notably short forward lever throw for cartridge ejection and reloading sequences. It also has good locking lugs and resulting accuracy almost the equal of a good bolt-action. Winchester makes the Model 88 in .243, .284 and .308 calibers. Receivers come factory tapped for standard scope mounts and receiver sights. Best buy is one in .308 caliber, simply because the .308 packs the heavier punch and ammunition is easier to find in sporting goods stores.

The Savage Model 99 lever action big game rifle is one of the best center fire sporting rifles ever made, as evidenced by its continued popularity for more than sixty years. It has been made in many different models and calibers, and in different styles and lengths of barrel. The Model 99 has a very strong action and gives side ejection of empties.

In addition to the original solid frame housing spool or rotary type loading magazine, the Savage Model 99 can now also be had in removable clip magazine version. Current calibers include the popular .243, .284, .308 and .358 Winchester calibers, and the one shot deer killer, the .300 Savage caliber, for big game.

Various gun weights and barrel lengths can be had. The Model 99-DL is recommended if you plan to use a scope sight. For metallic sights those models with lower comb height and sighting plane will probably give best face fit.

Quality of workmanship of modern Marlin's has improved in recent years, but the Model 336 is to be found in sporting goods stores in two price grades. Best buys are the Models 336C and 336T in .35 Remington caliber. The .35 is superior in performance to the .30-30 when the 200 grain bullet

is used. The discontinued Model 336-ADL is an even better buy should you run across a brand new one in .35 Remington caliber. Again, stick with the reliable 200 grain bullet loading.

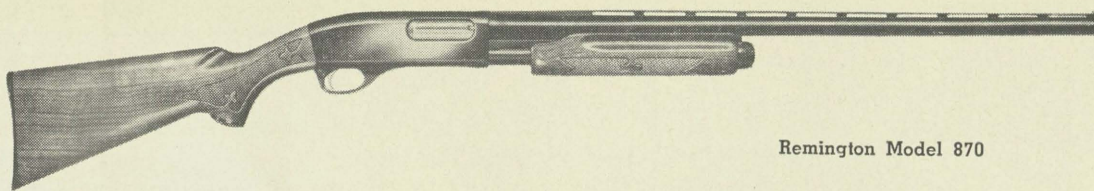
Current models come with an off-set hammer-cocking spur, for easier cocking when the rifle is used with a low-mounted scope sight. This hammer spur is easily reversed for left handers; only a small Allen wrench is needed to change the spur from one side to the other.

Small caliber lever actions, similar in mechanical operation to the lever action big game rifle models, can be had for practice shooting with inexpensive .22 caliber ammunition. The famous Marlin Model 39, Marlin Model 57, Mossberg 402, Winchester 250 and Noble Model 275 are five models that readily come to mind. There are other lesser knowns.

Most of the autoloaders or semi-automatics are suitable for left handed shooters. There are so many from which to make a selection that finding one you like shouldn't take long. The ones that operate on a gas piston principle usually have the least noticeable recoil—especially so if fitted with a Pachmayr neoprene rubber recoil pad.

The Remington Models 740 and 742 autoloading big game rifles are very popular. So is the Winchester Model 100, although there have been some authenticated complaints of jamming with some makes of ammunition and of bedded actions that won't maintain an established "cold" barrel zero. The Remington 742 Carbine can be had in special left hand model, although a portsider can use the conventional Model 742.

Both the two named Remington autoloaders and the Winchester Model 100 autoloader—like lever actions—usually give best grouping for the first three or four shots from a "cold" barrel. Once they heat up, group impact point usually changes. In the Remingtons, the condition can be overcome to a considerable degree by installing a shaped aluminum accuracy block, obtainable from Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan, in the fore-ends of rifles lacking such. Use a Model "S" accuracy block for rifles with serial numbers below 159,058; a Model "L" block for rifles with higher numbers. The shaped aluminum block is inserted



Remington Model 870

between forearm and stud to bring the barrel to perfect alignment and stabilize group impact of repeated shots.

The Ruger .44 Magnum caliber Carbine has a good reputation for reliable functioning, and can be used by a left hander, but many shooters do not care for the rather plain lines of its stock. They do, however, laud the rifle's light weight and accuracy.

Companion pieces—of .22 caliber, for comparable practice—can be had for almost any model auto-loading big game rifle. There are fifteen or more good .22's from which to choose. Very popular are the Remington Nylon 66, Remington 552, Remington 550, the Browning (reminiscent of the old Remington Models 24 and 241 once made by Remington on the same Browning patent), Savage Model 6, Sears-Roebuck Model 34, Mossberg 351 and Winchester Model 290. Marlin makes a .22 caliber version of the well-liked M1 Army Carbine; it is found in that firm's Model 99, available in either clip or tubular magazine cartridge feed. Ruger is another maker of a .22 caliber facsimile of the M1 Carbine. Weatherby produces a very nice looking semi-automatic in .22 caliber. A long list of available models could be compiled.

A pump or slide-action gun will generally accept more dirt and abuse and still operate, than a lever action or autoloader. It also—believe it or not—is the fastest type of manually operated rifle action, and one of the easiest to operate from shoulder position for follow-up shots. Left handers love the slide-action!

For big game, The Remington Model 760 in shooter's choice of .270 Winchester, .280 Remington, .30-06, .308 Winchester and .35 Remington caliber can be recommended without reservation. The Model 760's action is very strong; the barrel gives all the practical hunting accuracy a man needs. Some 760's, matched to the right ammunition, have turned in astonishing accuracy records. Remington's BDL grade can be had with Monte Carlo style stock and cheek piece designed for left handed use.

Slide-action .22 rifles are numerous. The better knowns include the Remingtons of yesteryear, the Models 12 and 121; the current Model 572 Remington, Winchester Model 270, Savage Model 29 and the much loved (now discontinued) Winchester Models 61 and 62.

There are even factory-tailored bolt-actions, made expressly for left handers. Savage makes the Model 110 big game rifle with operating bolt on left side of

receiver. The Weatherby Mark V rifle can also be had in left hand version, in just about any caliber desired. There are also many .22 caliber left hand Mossberg bolt-actions around.

Big game rifles built on the military Mauser, Springfield and Sako actions, and commercial modifications of the military Mauser—the Winchester Model 70, for example—can be rebuilt so that bolt handle is on left side instead of right. The job calls for top-grade gunsmithing; not every gunsmith can meet the challenge. Naturally, those capable of producing guaranteed conversions can ask—and get—their price.

Probably easiest to convert are Remington Models 721, 725 and the current Model 700. All lend themselves well to left hand bolt conversion. Gunsmiths say that conversion of old '98 Mauser actions give them the most trouble.

But many southpaws have learned to operate conventional right hand bolt-actions smoothly and expertly. Mostly it simply calls for practice. It is surprising how well and fast a left hander who really knows his weapon can shoot a bolt-action primarily made for right hand use.

In some instances bolt manipulation can be aided by having a good gunsmith highly polish friction points, without reducing the locking bolt's safety factor.

Cross-bolt, button style safeties on models like the Winchester 88 and certain others of similar design can be reversed for more convenient operation by left handers. An improvement would be installation of one of the large head safety button assemblies which Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan, makes for Remingtons 870, 760, 740, 572, 552, Sportsman 48, 11-48, 58 and 1100; Winchester Models 12, 50, 59, 42 and 1200, and Ithaca Model 37. The improved style safety can easily be substituted for the factory installation.

Finding a suitable shotgun for port side firing should be easy; there are many suitable models in autoloaders, slide and side-by-side an over-and-under doubles. Even lever action model shotguns can be had.

Your best bet is try to match up action preferences, so that practice with .22 or big game or shotgun complements the others.

The left hander, or the normally right handed person with a dominant left "master" eye, can take heart. There are many fine gun models that he can use expertly from left shoulder. ●



picture framing
adds to the
beauty of
Florida Wildlife
cover artwork

FRAMING . . .

FLORIDA WILDLIFE COVERS

IF YOU'VE WISHED for "reprints" of some of your favorite FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine covers for framing, here's a happy thought: You don't need them. The covers themselves are designed and printed so that the art work is suitable—and ready—for framing. For subscribers who do not want to remove the covers from their personal copies, single copies of the magazine are available for 25¢ each—far less in cost than, but exactly the same "art" size as, a cover *reprint* would be. By removing and carefully trimming a cover picture with a straight-edge and a razor blade you have your "reprint."

Mounted on an 11 x 14-inch white background of ordinary art board or poster board your picture is almost ready for insertion into any standard 11 x 14 frame. (Ours was purchased at the five-and-dime for \$1.49. Others sell for even less.)

Rubber cement is ideal for attaching the picture to the back-ground material. It can be brushed on the back of the picture evenly and any excess ce-

ment that appears at the edges while smoothing can easily be removed with an eraser or rolled off with the fingertip.

A ruled border line outside the picture's edge adds a professional look and noticeably enhances the appearance of the finished product. You'll note, too, that mounting seems to enlarge a FLORIDA WILDLIFE cover picture and magnify the colors.

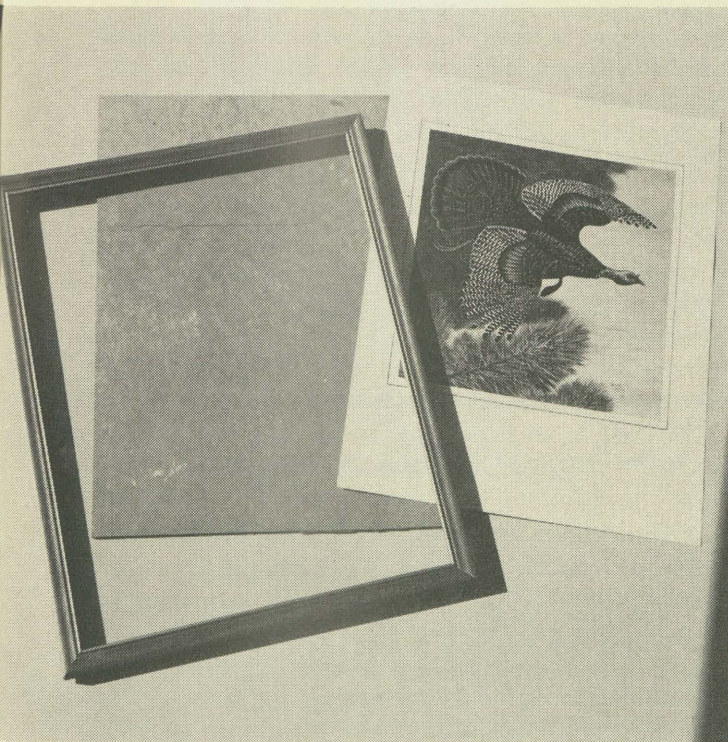
Be your own interior decorator when it comes to hanging your handiwork. For a large wall you may wish to arrange a group. A single 11 x 14 will best complement the average wall. A smaller space might call for a 9 x 12 mounting, which can be done just as easily as our 11 x 14. (An 8 x 10 frame is too small to render the best effect.)

Framed FLORIDA WILDLIFE cover pictures, especially those featuring Art Director Wallace Hughes' art work, grace homes, offices, hunting lodges and scout huts alike. People have discovered, too, that they make beautiful, inexpensive and lasting gifts. ●



The first step after carefully cutting out "cover artwork" is to position it on good quality white background base. Mounting the picture on background is no problem with rubber cement. It can be brushed on easily—it doesn't lump or smear—and any excess can be "rolled" off cleanly. When placed in position, use hand to smooth out "paste-up" from the center to outer edges. A ruled-on border about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from picture's edge adds to the "dramatic" appearance.

Photos By Wallace Hughes



Although this mounting, for 11 x 14 inch frame, is centered as to white side borders, more white space was allowed at the bottom of artwork-print for "attractive balance." This cover was pasted on with a two-inch top border. Before placing mounted artwork in frame, the glass should be well cleaned, especially inside surface. Extra "heavier" cardboard backing may be needed for mounting snugly against glass; original backing with frame is usually not enough.

Fresh Water Fishing Regulations



1967 - 1968



FISHING LICENSES

(Issued from office of County Judge)

LICENSE FEES—All Florida fishermen, except residents 65 years of age and over and children under 15, must possess a valid fishing license when using a rod and reel, trotlines, or an artificial lure in fresh waters, or for taking non-game fish by use of spears, gigs, or bow and arrow.

RESIDENT Fishing & Hunting Combination\$10.50 Annual, Statewide
RESIDENT\$ 3.00 Annual, Statewide
NON-RESIDENT\$ 8.00 Annual
(except children under 15 years of age)\$ 2.25 5-Day Continuous
	\$ 3.25 14-Day Continuous

Licenses are issued from offices of County Judges and their authorized sub-agents.

Fishing Regulations & Licenses in effect from July 1, 1967 through June 30, 1968.

DAY'S BAG LIMIT

10 Black Bass—15 Chain Pickerel

50 Panfish: Bream, Perch, and Red-finned Pike
Individually, or in aggregate

Total Possession Limit: Two Day's Bag Limit
after the first day of fishing.

SPECIAL DAILY BAG LIMITS

The limits for Jim Woodruff Reservoir, and the St. Mary's River: 15 Black Bass, 30 White Bass, 15 Chain Pickerel, 50 Panfish: 50 of all game fish in aggregate.

In Dade, Monroe, Broward or Collier (except Lake Trafford) counties: 70 Panfish.

In Deer Point Lake, and all its tributaries, in Bay County: 10 Channel Catfish.

Method of Taking Fresh Water Fish

Game fish may be taken with pole and line, rod and reel, bob, spinner, or troll. Nongame fish may be taken with bush hook, setline or trotline baited with cut bait or other substance, not including live fish, or any part of any game fish. Trotlines so baited, and limited to 25 hooks, are permitted for taking non-game fish for personal use with regular fishing license. Use of setlines or bush hooks prohibited in Fifth District. Non-game fish other than catfish may be taken by manually operated spears, gigs, or bow and arrow during daylight hours, except where prohibited by local law. Underwater swimming or diving is prohibited when using such devices, except in the Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers. Snatch hooks may be used for taking sturgeon in the Second and Third Conservation Districts. Non-game fish may be taken by certain other devices as provided by special regulations pertaining to specific waters.

DO NOT BUY OR SELL YOUR GAMEFISH

Early History

PROOF THAT WILDLIFE conservation is an old subject in Florida is established in the record books of 1828. A law passed then—just seven years after the United States purchased Florida from Spain—prohibited hunting with a light west of the Suwannee River. The fire-hunting of deer at night was now frowned upon.

Early laws commonly dealt with violators severely. For example, in 1893 regulation discouraged the shipment of quail beyond Florida boundaries. The fine, stiff by even modern standards, was a rough \$500-to-\$1,000, or 60-to-100 days as a guest in the local jailhouse.

Enforcement of these laws was difficult. The first official game wardens in Florida appeared in 1897. In the same year, fish wardens were assigned, working out of the sheriffs' departments. By 1905, the system had reached a point of sophistication in which fish and game wardens were governor-appointed. Their salaries averaged about two dollars per day.

The first Florida Game Commission was created in 1913. For the purpose of easy regulation, ownership of wildlife was vested in the state.

The newborn Commission lasted two years. When it disbanded, the protection of wildlife was turned over to the individual counties.

With each county writing rules, a bewildering hodge-podge of laws arose. Within a decade, 160 local hunting and fishing laws were listed in the books. To add to the confusion, many counties had independently established their own private game departments.

In 1925, a State Department of Game and Fresh Water Fish was established. One of the first activities of the new Department was to work out a licensing system. They put a non-resident annual hunting license at \$25.00; a resident license at \$10.00. A non-resident annual fishing license was \$5.00; no fishing license was required for residents.

In an effort to smooth out the mass of local laws, the Florida State Legislature repealed them in 1927, but two years later, the regulations once again assumed chaotic proportions.

In 1933, the State Department of Game and Fish melted away into history. Its duties were assumed by the State Board of Conservation, a unit already responsible for salt water fisheries, oyster fisheries, and a geology department. This unsatisfactory marriage survived two turmoiled years, with the divorce leading to a commission composed of five appointees to manage game and fresh water fish. The 1935 Legislature, with the best of intentions, continued to grind out local laws for nearly every county in the state.

In the 1930's, a nationwide conservation movement, developing gradually over the years, was reaching maturity. In Florida, spearheaded by organized sportsmen's groups, the new conservation concept grew beyond the bounds of protection and restriction. The modern interpretation included restoration, management, harvest, and wise use of all natural resources.

At the same time, hunters and fishermen banded together in protest of the perplexing and ponderous laws interfering with the pursuit of their sport. They complained about this continued proliferation, citing the 8 general laws and 60 local laws affecting game and fish. They pointed to the 38 counties which had local deer hunting seasons differing from that of the state season. Multiple seasons applied to other game species as well.

The time was ripe for a change.

In 1941, Florida's State Legislature adopted a Constitutional Amendment that established a Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission with 5 members appointed to serve for 5-year terms. This group had the power to fix bag limits and regulations. The act carried a referendum clause whereby the amendment was to be submitted to the voters of Florida at the general election of November 3, 1942.

The proposed amendment was well-received by Florida newspapers, conservation groups, and individual sportsmen. The voters realized their endorsement of this amendment would lead to streamlined, beneficial conservation practices and simplified and uniform hunting and fishing regulations.

The amendment was voted into effect overwhelmingly. It is now Article IV, Section 30 of the Constitution of the State of Florida and the foundation upon which this quarter century of wildlife conservation progress is based. Out of a chaotic beginning arose the basic structure which still serves so well today.

As evidence that the voters made the proper choice, the basic structure of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has remained virtually intact for 25 years, showing steady progress in keeping all who enjoy the out-of-doors happy and satisfied.

For example, despite increasing pressures and decreasing hunting lands, in the quarter-century span, the harvest of deer has jumped from 1,207 to 16,000 per year, the harvest of quail from 1 million to 1½ million. Fishermen from all over the United States still regard Florida as *the* place to fish.

Without a sound organizational framework, these, and other take-home increases, growing despite the many factors working against them, would have been impossible. ●

IMPACT ON RESOURCES

(Continued from page 5)

Civilization today with its technologies has reached such proficiency that, together with the impact of exploding populations, objectivity is paramount. Where once the spear was a symbol of survival, man must now use his best intelligence to control the awesome forces of his genius. The time-clock has already been set; delay could bring chaos.

As man has achieved his security and cultural goals, he seems to have lost contact with the raw resources of the earth. Millions now use these resources as converted products with little knowledge of their origin, or that raw materials are still the life-line of survival, whether mankind occupies a penthouse or a bark wigwam.

If we are to understand why the **FEDERATION** came into existence in our generation, then we must understand the many elements and forces which have been working through the endless ages long before we came onto the scene.

Dr. Lowdermilch, in his **CONQUEST OF THE LAND THROUGH SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS**, has stated: "Records of mankind's struggle through the ages to find a lasting adjustment to the land are found written across the landscapes as 'westward the course of empire took its way.'"

"Failures are more numerous than successes, as told by the ruins and wrecks of works along this amazing trail. From these failures and successes we may learn much of profit and benefit to this young nation, the United States, as it occupies a new and bountiful continent and begins to set up house for a thousand or ten thousand years—yes, for a boundless future."

Modern man has profited from the culture and concepts of government developed around the Mediterranean, but democracy as

it is now practiced in portions of the world was then unknown. Man has failed to heed the ugly reminders that produced this deterioration by way of land abuse, still carried as an intolerable burden by those people.

The need for intelligent land-use practices has not kept pace with the other cultural achievements of mankind. A war slave of the early cultures, and there were thousands of them, felt no responsibility for land husbandry. Probably the Germanic and Celtic tribes, those truculent individualists, were the first to sense these problems following the splendors of Babylon. But they were not row-crop farmers to the degree the Americans became. Sad to say, many of these people lost their sense of values and "mother earth affinity" when they migrated to the New World, where the heady wine of freedom was first tasted on the North American Continent and modern democracy was born.

Responsibility and self-discipline, as requisites to freedom, are still unlearned lessons by many of our citizens. And so the many impingements of man's urge for power, pretense and luxuries are slowly forcing him to consider the husbandry of those elements of nature which make these ambitions possible.

Man has proved himself equally predatory with other living mammals and far more destructive because of his superior intelligence. Wildlife once made man's existence possible, and even after man no longer survived entirely by hunting, it was a highly regarded asset. Wildlife produced food for the individual and the family unit, then became a source of economic trade and finally, a fanatical avocation under the name of recreation. Certainly the traditions of hunting, fishing and trapping for recreation and for a livelihood have been an important aspect of man's culture through the ages, dating from mythological times. ●

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

Nor have they discovered a colony of reloaders on either of these two planets. In fact, the primers involved would not be used in ammunition at all. Instead, they would be used to operate certain necessary devices on spacecraft such as parachute reefing line cutters, parachute release mechanisms and, possibly, to release shock absorbing material from the vehicle. If this application for primers sounds unusual, the standards for their selection are even more so.

The spacecraft involved in this case will be part of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's contribution to NASA's "Voyager" project. This space capsule, a successor to the Mariner, is designed to land on Venus and Mars and radio information back to earth. To avoid introducing any earth-borne contamination to planetary atmospheres, however, all equipment used must first be sterilized. This includes the primers which must withstand temperatures up to 300°F. without deterioration. Most primers deteriorate so rapidly at such elevated temperatures that they become useless.

Sterilization is only part of the torture test, though. Primers must also withstand considerable temperature shock as well. This involves ten alternate cycles of exposure to temperatures of -60°F. and then +300°F. In addition they must survive tumbling tests for rough handling and high impact shock tests. And yet, after running through this interstellar obstacle course, primers must still perform just as quickly and surely as those used for sporting shotshells and center fire cartridges.

Two individual types of primers weathered all tests without loss of ability to function. Both were Remington-made. So some day, one or both may go on a space ride to help perform a task, may we say, of "primary" importance. ●



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE _____ Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip No. _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

Signature of Applicant _____

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



Burrowing Owl

Wildlife Portrait By Mike Fogarty

FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

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